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KHAZARS, SLAVS

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TREASURE OF KHAN KUBRAT

CULTURE OF BULGARS, KHAZARS, SLAVS

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TREASURE OF KHAN KUBRAT

CULTURE

OF BULGARS, KHAZARS, SLAVS

K. V. Kasparova, Z. A. Lvova, B. I. Marshak, I. V. Sokolova, M. B. Shchukin, V.N. Zaleskaya,I. P. Zasetskaya

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TREASURE OF KHAN KUBRAT

Culture of Bulgars, Khazars , Slavs

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INTRODUCTION

The desire to know his past and the past of his ancestors is innate in every human being and every nation. However, there are no eternal nations in the world. Every ethnic com- munity emerges in a definite moment and though the “mo- ment of emergence” is always conditional, it takes a definite period of time and definite conditions to take shape. In the course of time the community changes, as do its culture and frame of mind, lifestyle and language. The processes con- tinue today too. “Upon those that step into the same rivers, different and different waters flow down” is a piece of an- cient Greek wisdom. This is obvious. But every river runs in its own course — now even, now meandering, depending on the locality, tributaries flow into it and it is a tributary to another river. Something similar happens to peoples in the course of history. A people changes at a definite moment; each generation differs from the previous one. But a river- bed will be a river-bed though meandering and everyone is eager to reach the source and see in detail the streams, brooks and ponds from which our present day has sprung.

To a certain extent this exhibition enables us to do it, be- cause it is devoted to an epoch when most of the European peoples came into being. The exhibits trace a span of almost 600 years — from the 5th to the 11th century (with emphasis on monuments of the 7th and 8th centuries). This period of time is long enough when compared to a human lifespan but quite short in the context of human history. The exhibition includes primarily items from lands north of the Black Sea, the territories of Eurasia which are quite big but rather in- significant compared to the whole enormous continent.

The treasure of Malaya Pereshchepina, one of the most pre- cious ancient treasures that have come down to us, the trea- sure of khan Kubrat, if the hypothesis of Prof. Joachim Werner of Munich is true, is the key element in the pro- gramme and no doubt the most spectacular exhibit. Kubrat was the father of khan Asparouh who ca. 660 AD led his Bul-

gar tribes across the Danube to what is now Bulgaria; it was those tribes after whom the country and the nation formed there were named. It is a nation which changes its language and culture but to a large extent continues to have something of the blood of Asparouh’s Bulgars running in their veins. Asparouh’s Bulgars and the people of the tribal alliance formed by khan Kubrat in the Pontic lands, the so-called Great Bulgaria, whose boundaries and exact location con- tinue to be an object of dispute, did not live in the void. The lands occupied by Bulgars continued to be the home of tribes that had appeared there earlier; the Bulgars were sur- rounded on all sides by neighbours: the Slavs in the forest- steppe area around the Dnieper; the Goths in the Crimea; the Alani in the

Northern Caucasus; and the Khazars on their eastern border. The exodus of Asparouh's hordes did not de-populate the lands around the Black Sea. The Khazar Kha- nate was founded.

If the exhibition was confined to the Pereshchepina treasure only, the idea of that age would have been incomplete and in- accurate. The precious Pereshchepina treasure needs context provided by monuments from times preceding the time of Kubrat, monuments contemporaneaus with the Pereshchepi- na treasure, but belonging to other peoples and revealing the culture of the Khazar Khanate, of the Severi Slavs, at a later stage; and finally, the age when the Khazars ceased to domi- nate and the young state Kievan Russia became a great power in Eastern Europe.

Since the Huns who inhabited the Pontic lands before the Bulgars and the Khazars who inhabited those lands after originate from Central Asia and since the Bulgars themselves originated from somewhere in the east, the staff responsible for the arrangement of this exhibition deemed it necessary to show also some finds from Southern Siberia, characteristic of the culture of the Turkic khanates that existed there bet- ween the 6th and 9th century.

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CULTURE

OF THE NOMADS BETWEEN

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In the 370's Eastern Europe was shattered by the sudden in- vasion of the "fierce Huns" who ushered in a new epoch in the history of nomads in Eurasia.

The Hunnic expansion put an end to the millennial domina- tion of the Iranian-speaking peoples in the southern Russian steppes and opened the way to the west for the eastern tribes of Turkic origin.

The earliest authentic data about the Huns in Europe are provided by Ammianus Marcellinus, a contemporary of the Hunnic invasion. He writes that the Huns came from beyond the Meotian Lake (Sea of Azov), defeated the Alani and then attacked the Goths and drove them towards the Danube. Then the Huns discontinued their march westwards, returned to the steppes of the northern lands around the Black Sea, united the local population under their power and for many

years were the masters of the vast steppes. From 420 onwards the Huns resumed their campaigns towards the Danube, con- quered Pannonia in the middle reaches of the Danube and in 445 the mighty "state" of Attila was formed. After Attila's death in 454, the union that he had formed from tribes and peoples speaking different languages and that existed solely on the power of arms disintegrated. The successors' struggle for power bred strife between the tribes. The Gepidae were the first to break away from the Huns, followed by other Germanic tribes. One of Attila's sons was killed; his two other sons Dengisich and Irnik fled towards the Pontic (Black) Sea. The further destiny of the Huns is not quite clear. Written sources say that new tribes — Saraguri, Urgi and Onoguri, appeared in the steppes north of the Black Sea in the latter half of the 5th century and displaced the Acatsiri that had dominated during the Hunnic tribal alliance. The tribes Utiguri and Kutriguri are likewise treated as succes- sors of the Huns. Only two Byzantine authors from the period of Justinian I — Procopius of Caesarea and Agathias of Myrina — mention these. From their writings it becomes clear that the two peoples were two independent alliances con- stantly at war against each other. The Kutriguri inhabited a region west to

Meotis and the Utiguri lived along the eastern coast. The neverending internecine war instigated by Justi- nian I led to the nearly complete extermination of those tribes. Those who survived, the ancient authors write, mixed with other peoples and adopted their names. Again Byzan- tine sources tell us that the Saviri, who acted mainly in Transcaucasia, the Bulgars and some other tribes appeared on the scene of history in the first half of the 6th century of the Cristian era. Very often those tribes were called Huns and this is explained either by their common origin or simply by their identical mode of life. Fragmentary facts pertaining mainly to participation in the wars between Byzantium and Iran exist about all tribes in the period of the disintegration of the Hunnic alliance, fighting now for Byzantium, now for Iran. M. I. Artamonov draws correctly the conclusion that the alliances of those tribes were unsteady and short-lived and were formed out of military motives which were tem- porary. Prior to the formation of the Khazar Khanate, the Hunnic alliance was actually the last big political alliance of nomads in the lands to the north of the Black Sea.

A Bulgar tribe or tribes might have been involved in this . melting pot of tribes who, together with the Huns, moved

from the east to the west in late 4th and early 5th century. Sources about them mention them for the first time in con- nection with early 5th century developments, when the Huns were consolidating their power in Pannonia. According to the data of Paul the Deacon, who wrote History of the Lom- bards, one of the Germanic tribes in Central Europe, the Bul- gars unexpectedly attacked the Lombards, killed their king Agelmund and led his only daughter into captivity (Ar- tamonov, pp. 79-80). In 5th and 6th century sources there are several more refer- ences to the Bulgars. For example, the Byzantine emperor Zeno asked them to help him against the Goths in 481 and 487; in 514-515 Bulgars fought in the uprising of Vitalian who tried to usurp the Byzantine throne; in 530 they invaded Thrace; and 569 they made for Italy together with the Lom- bards. On the other hand, they were mentioned on the list of peoples living beyond the “Caspian Gates”, i.e. in the North- ern Caucasus. Some sources call the barbarians involved in the events they describe Bulgars; other sources describing the same events call them Huns (Artamonov, 1962, pp. 79-83). Since ancient authors use the two names as synonyms, it is not always possible to know in what cases they referred to the tribe of Bulgars or of Huns and in what to nomads in gen- eral. It is not possible either to dissociate archaeologically the Bulgar monuments from ancient monuments from the age of the Great Migration of Peoples. The history of European Huns has always drawn the atten- tion of scholars. The origin of the Huns is one of the cardinal questions in Hunnic archaeology. Who were the Huns and where did they come from? The question of the interrelation of the Huns in Eastern Europe with the Central Asiatic tribes Hunnu (Sunnv) is of primary importance here. Writings on this matter present two absolutely opposite views. Some au- thors identify the Huns with Hunnu; others believe those were two peoples of different origin. Both hypotheses hinge exclusively on written and linguistic sources. Archaeological material is seldom adduced, if at all. And it is there that an answer to the question is to be sought. Recent investigation on some categories of items, bronze cauldrons in particular (Cat. No 1), weapons, horse trappings and the funeral ritual invites a conclusion of elements of Hunnic culture. For example, all scholars admit that the Central Asian cauldrons dating from Hunnu times are the prototypes of the Eastern European cauldrons from the Hunnic epoch. The same holds

good of the arrowheads which are not to be traced back to the weapons of Sarmatians and Alani in the Southern Rus- sian steppes. The burial of a horse hide, a practice common among Turkic peoples, likewise testifies to the Huns’ eastern origins.

The origin of European Huns is also corroborated by descrip- tions of their appearance by contemporaries, which is defi- nite evidence that they belonged to the Mongoloid race.

A whole series of names of tribes with the characteristic en- dings -guri, -juri, -giri, and -iri is associated with the Huns of Eastern Europe. These are: Acatsiri, Alcigiri, Hunuguri, Al- piuzuri, Itimari, Saviri, etc., mentioned by Priscus of Pontus and Iordanes. All those names are very different from the Iranian names of the population in the Southern Russian steppes from the preceding times and, conversely, are close to the names of the Turkic peoples Uighuri, Oguzi, Avars and Khazars, who replaced the Hunnic alliance.

Our exhibition presents mainly materials about the time fol- lowing the disintegration of the Hunnic tribal alliance, which, however, trace the tradition of the preceding culture. Today more often than not archaeology is incapable of pro- nouncing itself to what tribe the burials belonged; we do not know whether the lady to whom the funerary offerings were

Eastern Europe and Central Asia in the 6th century (after M. I. Artamonov)

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made in Verkhne-Yablochniy on the Volga (Cat. Nos 2-3) was a Hun or belonged to another of the numerous tribes forming the Hunnic alliance, nor do we know to what tribe belonged the owner of the objects found around Lake Borovoe in Kazakhstan (Cat. Nos 4-18). We might assume that a noble Utigur had possessed the finds from Michaelsfeld on the Kuban (Cat. Nos 33-36), and a Kutrigur — those from Morskoy Chulek on the Don (Cat. Nos 4-18). Both alliances were a melting pot of tribes in a turbulent age, so the objects must have changed hands and it is impossible to make any definite statements about them.

Anyhow, the finds in question tangibly reveal the tastes of those times, the notions of beauty of the owners and their frame of mind, bringing that epoch closer to us.

The appearance of the Huns in Eastern Europe spread arti- cles of adornment that were original in shape and decora- tion. These are gold chains, pendants, diadems (Cat. Nos 2,3); ornamented with compositions set into separately welded mounts and filigree ornament of beads and threads imitating brocade and embroidery. Gemz or glass of red and orange shade were set: garnet, sardonyx and occasionally amber. If the technique is to be traced back to the ancient traditions of goldsmithery in the Graeco-Roman epoch, the shape has

close parallels in the Eastern, in particular in the Central Asian Antiquity.

Polychromatic objects made using another technique were spread in parallel; filed plates of the almandine variety of garnet in a regular geometric pattern cover their whole sur- face. Welded ribs form the mounts for the gems. The mounts are initially filled with a special paste, a piece of gold foil is placed under the stone, and the pressed ends of the ribs keep the stone on the surface.

Different hypotheses have been advanced about the origin of this “inlay” style and the centres of production. According to one hypothesis, these were the lands to the north of the Black Sea, Bosporus, where polychromatic objects had longtime traditions back to the Hellenistic Period. Another hypothesis claims that such a style might have originated in the lands along the middle reaches of the Danube, in the Hunnic-Ger- manic-Roman milieu in Attila’s empire and that when the Huns withdrew from Pannonia, it was transported to the east (Ambroz, 1974). A third hypothesis insists that such an intri- cate technique was possible in Byzantium only, more speci- fically in Constantinople (Arrhenius, 1985), for making var- ious objects for the barbarian foederati who had entered into a political alliance with Byzantium or for serving in the im- perial armies (Tejral, 1973). A forth hypothesis seeks for the origins in Sassanid Iran or in the border regions between Iran and Byzantium in the Eastern Mediteranean region, more specifically in Georgia (Roth, 1980; Bazhan, Shchukin —in press).

No matter what answer is given about the origin of polych- romatic objects, it is perfectly clear that this new style and its avid ambition for ostentatious barbarian luxury and splendour, quite adequately reveals a turbulent period when the Roman Empire was disintegrating and new social rela- tions were surging. The nomads’

migratory waves from the east, with the Huns in the vanguard, contributed largely to the formation of an environment that produced and spread this style.

KIZIL-ADIR, ORENBURG REGION

The burial was found in 1977 by V. A. Garyainov, leader of the geological expedition of the research institute at the Saratov State University, while exploring a karst cave on the

border between Belyaevka and Kuvandyk districts. The bu- rial was studied in 1979, involving I.P.Zasetskaya, research associate at the State Hermitage.

The hole on the vertical gypsum wall in the cave is a narrow corridor with a low overhanging ceiling, leading to a small hall. In antiquity the entrance to the hall was formed by ver- tical slabs placed on sandstone but displaced, probably by robbers. In 1977 V. A. Garyainov found a bronze cauldron and fragments of a two-edged sword in the rectangular grave in the middle of the hall. Excavations in the grave in 1979 showed that it had been completely plundered. Skeleton bones, pieces of an iron sword, iron harness, arrowheads, a quiver hook, bone cover for a bow, silver plates from belt ends, a small gold buckle with amber mounted on it were found scattered in and around the filled up grave.

Some of the finds — the arrowheads and the cauldron — are traced back to eastern prototypes and make the monument an interesting study of the correlation of the culture of the Central Asian Hunnu(Sunnu) and of the European Huns. References: Garyainov, 1980, pp. 259-262; Zasetskaya, 1982, pp. 54-77,

1. CAULDRON, 4th-5th CENTURY Bronze, 34.5 cm high. Diameter 24.3 cm. Inv. No 2718/1.

Cauldron with a cylindrical body, round bottom and low ex- panding crown separated from the body by a sharp edge (the foot has been lost). The handles which are rectangular frames are crowned by three mushroom-shaped protrusions. Similar protrusions are seen on the end of the crown on either side of the handles. The body's surface is divided into four equal planes by IT-shaped figures formed by a relief rim. The cauldron was cast in a dichotomous mould after the lost- model technique.

Such cauldrons, differing from the cauldrons of the Sarma- tians and Alani between the Ist and 2nd century AD, and de- riving from the models of the Central Asian smelters, are characteristic of the Hunnic epoch. The finds from the Urals to the Danubian lands reflect the sphere of Hunnic expan- sion.

References: Zasetskaya, 1982, pp. 68—73; Horhoiu, Diaconescu, 1984, pp. 99-116; Minasian, 1986, p. 75.

VERKHNE-YABLOCHNIY KHUTOR, VOLGOGRAD REGION

Chance find by local people in 1902, under unknown cir- cumstances.

The objects — a diadem and a pair of pendants — were submit- ted by the Archaeological Commission to the Hermitage in 1904.

This set of women's head ornaments are a typical example of goldsmithery from the time of Hunnic rule in the Southern Russian steppes, late 4th-first half of the 5th century. References: RAC of 1902, pp. 126-127, drawings 211-213; Werner, 1956, table 30, 4, 5 a, b; Zasetskaya, 1975, pp. 35-36, Cat. Nos 1, 2.

2. DIADEM Bronze. Gold. Garnets. 24 cm long. 4 cm high. Inv. No 1948/2.

The diadem shaped like a rectangular plate with a figural frieze consists of a bronze base and gilt leaves covering it with ends rolled inwards to fit tight to the base. The front part is decorated with garnet gems into mounts from later- ally welded ribs, triangles of beads and a rim shaped like a "rope" or "cord" made of fine metal wire. The ends of the diadem have two openings each for the ties.

The diadem's decorative frieze is a composition of regularly recurrent figures which are usually called mushroom-shaped figures. Comparison with similar compositions on other diadems from the same period suggests that the Verkhne- Yablochniy frieze is a conventional schematic reproduction of a composition on which every figure symbolizes a tree of life with birds whose heads face in opposite directions. References: Werner, 1956, A, S, pp. 61-68, table 30, 4; Tikhanova, Chernyakov, 1970, p. 117; Zasetskaya, 1975, p. 55, Cat. No 1, table 6.

3. PENDANT (covering the temple bone) Gold. Garnets. Size: 8.6 x 6.1 cm. Inv. No 1948/1.

The pendant shaped like a gold disc is surrounded by tubular rays bent by a gold rib and crowned by round empty heads with bead pyramids.

The obverse of the disc is adorned with garnet gems in

mounts of laterally welded ribs, with bead triangles and corded rim of fine metal wire. The reverse of the disc features a religious scene: a tree of life, a bird above and animals around (goats and a dog). All figures are made from beads. The pendant hung on arc-shaped handles welded in the disc's upper part (the arc-shaped handle is not preserved). References: Werner, 1956, p. 64, table 30, 5 a, b; Zasetskaya, 1975, pp. 35-36, Cat. No 2.

LAKE BOROVOE, KAZAKHSTAN

In 1928 workers came across a burial from the Great Migra- tion of Peoples at Lake Borovoe in Barmashnoe locality of Schchuchin region, and destroyed and plundered it. V. I. Ore- khov, who was sent to the site, collected items from individu- als and described the conditions after what workers told him. He found out that the burial had been in a pit covered with stone slabs. There was a destroyed skeleton (only the skull was preserved) on the bottom of the pit and an abun- dance of funerary offerings, including an iron dagger, ar- rowheads, a spear, harnesses, gold studs'on the wooden base of a saddle and a big quantity of gold and silver objects, in- laid with precious stones. A cast bronze cauldron charac- teristic of the nomadic culture in the Eurasian steppes was found under the slabs in the layer of rubble and gravel that filled the grave.

The date of the burial site is uncertain. Some scholars date it between late 4th and 5th century or the first half of the 6th century; others between the 6th and 7th century AD.

Three objects among the grave offerings are of special in- terest (Cat. Nos 5, 6, 7). For a long time their function was not clear. But a small dagger in a richly inlaid sheath found in South Korea suggests that the three Borovoe finds are two appliques and a brace for a dagger sheath similar to the Ko- rean one(Anazawa, Manome, 1980, p.225; Ambroz, 1986, p.66). Research on archive materials produced photographs of some missing fragments from the lower part of the sheath and lent precision to the earlier reconstruction. It is the pre- cise version that is displayed at the exhibition.

References: Bernshtam, 1949, pp. 216-229; Werner, 1956, table 14; Zasetskaya, 1975, pp. 43-51; Ambroz, 1981, pp. 10-23; Zasetskaya, 1986, pp. 79-92; Anazawa, Manome, 1980, p. 225; Ambroz, 1986, pp. 66.

4. BUCKLE APPLIQUE Gold. Sardonyx. Size: 2 x 2.1 cm. Inv. No 2004/21.

An applique from a square plate with ends of a laterally welded fine strip. There is a big sardonyx gem in a mount of a laterally welded rib. A frame of beads encircles the mount. An opening from a pin on the reverse with traces of copper oxide.

Reference: Zasetskaya, 1975, No 29.

5. AN APPLIQUE OF THE DAGGER SHEATH OPENING

Gold. Silver. Garnet. Paste. Size: 6.7 x 2.5 cm. Inv. No 2004/19.

An applique of a rectangular gold plate with ends rolled in- wards. The front side is inlaid with garnet gems and green paste on the mounts with figural and equal ends. Beads en- circle the applique. A fine silver plate which connects the applique with the brace is welded to one of the lateral parts (Cf. Cat. No 7).

References: Zasetskaya, 1975, No 16; Anazawa, Manome, 1980, p. 225; Ambroz, 1986, p. 66, drawing 7.

6. TRAPEZIUM-SHAPED APPLIQUE OF DAGGER SHEATH

Gold. Silver. Garnet. 3.2 cm high. 6.5 cm wide at the base. Inv. No 2004/23.

Applique from a gold plate with ends rolled inwards from three sides. There is a big oval mount in the middle with a strip of gold and a frame of beads (the gem has been lost). There are four figural garnet gems in the corners. All mounts are formed by laterally welded fine strips. The space between the mounts is filled with triangles of beads. From three sides the applique is braided with a filigree ornament. A silver plate is welded on the reverse, in the end of one of the lateral parts, and connects the applique with the brace (Cat. No 7). References: Zasetskaya, 1975, No 27, Anazawa, Manome, 1980, p. 225; Ambroz, 1986, p. 66, drawing 7.

7. BRACE FROM A DAGGER SHEATH Gold. Silver. Garnets. Wood. 5.9 cm long. Inv. No 2004/22.

The brace resembles a stylized bird's head; wrought from a

silver sheet and spread on a gold leaf with ends rolled in- wards. The front part is covered with mounts formed from laterally welded gold strips. There had been gems in the mounts — flat plates of almandine on a pad of gold foil (two gems have survived). Whitish substance fills the mounts under the foil. There is a round mount with an almandine gem in the upper part of the brace, framed by a double ring by laterally welded gold strips and edged with beads. A piece of the brace's wooden base has been preserved between the silver sheet and the gold covering. A filigree "corded" orna- ment runs along three sides of the brace. There is a silver noose on the reverse.

References: Zasetskaya, 1975, No 28; Anazawa, Manome, 1980, p. 255; Ambroz, 1986, p. 66, drawing 7.

8-9. FIGURAL BUCKLES (two) Silver. Sardonyx. 5.7 cm long. Inv. No 2004/29, 30.

The hoof-shaped buckles with a triangular protrusion are cut from a silver sheet attached to the frame by a guadrangu- lar axis welded at the end. The buckles are decorated with a big sardonyx gem in an oval mount from a laterally welded strip, with triangles, circles and rows of beads plus pyramids of beads along the edges of the buckles. There is a round mount on the reverse with glass gems. The function of the buckles is not clear; there are no visible traces of tying. Reference: Zasetskaya, 1975, No 24.

10. APPLIQUE Bronze. Gilted. Paste. 13 cm long; 0.8 cm wide. Inv. No 2004/8.

An applique — narrow rectangular bronze sheet with trian- gular mounts for gems formed by laterally welded bronze strips (one gem has survived). There are four small openings from pins and traces of gilting. Reference: Zasetskaya, 1975, No 13.

11. APPLIQUE — BIRD'S HEAD (fragment) Bronze. Size: 2.5 x 2 cm. Inv. No 2004/9.

The applique is cut from a bronze sheet and laterally welded

bronze strips divide it into six mounts for gems (the gems have not survived). There are remains of a whitish substance in the mounts. A hole from a pin in the middle.

References: Zasetskaya, 1975, No 14; Ambroz, 1986, p. 66, drawing ihe

12. BELT END Gold. Garnets. Size: 2.6 x 2.6 cm. Inv. No 2004/24.

Shaped like a square box from a sheet folded in two. The lower part of the sheet is folded like a cylinder with a grooved surface. The lateral parts are blocked by welded figural plates cut from a gold sheet. Decorated with two al- mandine gems in oval and rectangular mounts from laterally welded strips, with circles and triangles of beads.

The burial site contains another two similar pieces, smaller in size.

Reference: Zasetskaya. 1975, Nos 25, 26.

13. SADDLE FACING Gold. 19 cm long; 6.5 cm high (preserved). Inv. No 2004/45.

The facing is triangular, made from a fine gold sheet with a pressed scaly ornament.

References: Bernshtam, 1949, p. 217, drawing 1; Zasetskaya, 1984, pp. 68—78.

14. FACING Gold. Garnets. Size: 4 x 5.2 cm. Inv. No 2004/31.

A rectangular facing from a fine gold sheet with rolled ends. The front part is decorated with garnet gems on oval and round mounts from laterally welded strips (the central gem has not survived). There are circles of beads around the mounts; and triangles and lozenges of beads between the mounts. There is a stamped ornament imitating lace along the edge.

Reference: Zasetskaya, 1975, No 22.

15. FACING Gold. Garnets. Size: 4.7 x 6.5 cm. Inv. No 2004/32.

The facing is similar to the previous one but has one round

mount for gems; the remaining mounts are squares. Reference: Zasetskaya, 1975, No 23.

16. FACING (fragment of a diadem?) Gold. Garnets. Size: 9.2 x 3.1 cm. Inv. No 2004/33.

An end of a rectangular facing of a fine gold sheet with rolled ends. The facing is decorated with two rows of garnet gems in oval mounts of laterally welded strips. Circles of beads around the mounts; triangles and lozenges of beads between the mounts. A stamped ornament imitating lace along the end.

Reference: Zasetskaya, 1975, No 21.

17. FACING OF A SHEATH

OF A SWORD OF DAGGER (?)

Gold. Sardonyx. Garnets. Size: 2.4 x 9.6 cm. Inv. No 2004/34.

A rectangular facing of a fine gold sheet with rolled ends, de- corated with a big sardonyx gem in a rectangular mount. All mounts are formed by laterally welded fine strips. Circles of beads around the mounts. Triangles and lozenges of beads between the mounts. A stamped ornament imitating “knot- work” along the ends. Four holes from pins on the reverse under the end gems; fragments of bronze pins have survived in two of them.

Reference: Zasetskaya, 1975, No 20.

18. BUCKLE Sardonyx. Size: 3.8 x 3 cm. Inv. No 2004/4.

The frame of the buckle is oval, wider in the front part and upright on the back. The surface is protruding and rough, the reverse is flat and smooth.

The different variants of the bronze parallels of buckles with a relief arc-shaped handle, believed to be Byzantine imports, are encountered among 4th-6th century ancient monuments in barbarian Europe, over a large territory from the Rhine to the Volga and the Caucasus. The buckle found on the burial site at Lake Borovoe is unique.

References: Bernshtam, 1949, drawing 8 b; Bazhan, Kargopoltsev, 1986, pp. 129-138.

19

MORSKOY CHULEK, ROSTOV REGION

In 1868 peasants came across two burials in the valley of the river Morskoy Chulek, 33 km from Taganrog. Together with human bones there were gold adornments and a set of inlaid appliques from horse collars. In 1869 the items were ac- quired by the Department for Ancient Monuments at the Im- perial Hermitage. Contrary opinions have been expressed as regards the dating of the burial sites: second half of the 5th — early 6th century; A. K. Ambroz attributes them to burials in the latter half of the 7th century and the first half of the 8th century.

References: Tolstoy, Kondakov, 1890, pp. 140-142, 166-171; Artamonov, 1962, p. 77; Ambroz, 1981, p.18.

drawings

19. BRACELET Gold. 17.2 em long. Inv. No 2157/4. Burial 1.

The bracelet is made of a solid wrought sheet, with expand- ing ends that do noth touch. There is a square mount in the ends from a narrow laterally welded strip (the gems are mis- sing). Circles of a relief line around the mounts. The burial site contains a second similar bracelet.

Reference: Artamonov, 1962, p. 77.

20-21. PENDANTS (pair) Gold. Size: 2.5 x 2.1 cm. Inv. No 2157/1-2. Burial 1.

The pendants consist of two halves welded to form a ring and hollow inside. The surface is decorated with concentric rows of beads, with smooth gold strips welded in-between. The strip covering the welding seam ends with metallic loops on the top. The arc-shaped handles are missing.

Reference: Tolstoy, Kondakov, 1890, p. 141, drawing 171.

22. RING Gold. Garnet. Diameter 2.1 cm. Inv. No 2157/8. Burial 1.

A ring from sheets with an oval shield welded to it. The shield is decorated with a protruding garnet gem with a dol- phin engraved on it. The mount is formed by a laterally welded sheet. A circle of a relief line around.the mount.

23-24. BUCKLES FROM HORSE TRAPPINGS (?) Gold. Glass. Size: 4.9 x 3.8 cm. Inv. No 2157/16, 17. Burial 2.

The two pentagonal buckles are cut from a thin gold leaf into whose ends a sheet is laterally welded to form their edges. A gold strip is horizontally welded on the top of the ends, with openings from pins in the corners of the buckle. The buckles are inlaid with gems of red glass in figural mounts formed by welded ribs. There is a blue paste gem in one of the oval mounts. There is whitish substance in the mounts under the gems. A circle of a relief line runs along the end. The burial site contains another three similar buckles.

References: Tolstoy, Kondakov, 1890, p. 141, drawing 167; Ar- tamonov, 1962, p. 77.

25. PLATE FROM A HARNESS (?) Gold. Glass. Diameter 6.8 cm. Inv. No 2157/21. Burial 2.

A round plate with an umbo in the middle, but from a thin gold sheet with a plate laterally welded into its ends to form the rim. A gold strip is horizontally welded on the top of the end with eight holes from pins in it. The plate is inlaid with gems of red glass in figural mounts and of blue paste in the round mounts. The mounts are formed by laterally welded ribs. A relief metallic frame runs along the edge of the plate. The burial site contains another two similar plates. Reference: Tolstoy, Kondakov, 1890, pp. 140-141, drawing 166.

26. PLATE FROM A HARNESS (?) Gold. Glass. Diameter 7.9 cm. Inv. No 2157/25. Burial 2.

A plate similar to the one described above, but bigger (the umbo is missing). The site contains three more similar plates.

27. BRACELET Gold. 21.7 cm long. Inv. No 2157/10. Burial 2.

A bracelet of solid gold, round in section and with sharply expanding funnel-shaped ends. Reference: Artamonov, 1962, p. 77.

28, 29. INSERTS FROM A HORSE HARNESS (two) (?)

Gold, glass. 2.6 cm high.

Inv. No 2157/28, 29. Burial 2.

The inserts are cylindrical in shape, drawn from a thin gold sheet. The whole surface of the inserts is inlaid with gems of flat red glass in 16 figure mounts formed by laterally welded ribs. Whitish substance fills the mounts under the gems. References: Tolstoy, Kondakov, 1890, pp. 141-142, drawing 170; Ar- tamonov, 1962, p. 77.

30. RING Gold. Sardonyx. Garnet. Size: 4.4 x 2.2 cm. Inv. No 2157/12. Burial 2.

The ring has a noose-shaped loop and figural oval shield with two lateral round protrusions cut from a sheet. There is an oval mount with a flat sardonyx gem and prominent round garnet gems on the protrusions. The mounts are formed by laterally welded narrow strips and around the mounts there are rough circles and beads. The ring is or- namented with a filigree “braided” drawing of corded and smooth lines.

The burial site also contains two whole rings and a fragment of a similar ring.

References: Tolstoy, Kondakov, 1890, p. 141, drawing 169; Ar- tamonov, 1962, p. 77.

31. PENDANT Gold. Glass. Size 3.4 x 2 cm. Inv. No 2157/39. Burial 2.

Figural pendant shaped like a box consisting of two almond- shaped plates with an oval cut in the upper part, connected with a narrow strip welded in the ends and forming the wall of the box.

The two sides of the pendant and the lateral parts are deco- rated with flat gems of red glass in 16 mounts formed by welded ribs. Two metallic loops are welded in the upper part of the pendant. The lower part of the pendant ends with a pyramid of beads. The burial site contains also the other pen- dant of the pair.

References:Tolstoy, Kondakov, 1890, p. 141, drawing 168; Ar- tamonov, 1962, p. 77.

32. A CHAIN WITH A PENDANT MEDALLION

Gold. Carnet. 47.8 cm long. Size of the medallion: 3.2 x 2.3 cm.

Inv. No 2157/9. Burial 2.

A solid chain with thread-like folded and connected links, producing the impression of a knit quadrangular cord. One end of the chain is broken; on the other there is a gold end with garnet gems in rectangular mounts. Circles of beads round the mounts.

The medallion is oval, with a big garnet gem, with two circles of beads around the gem and a narrow horizontally welded plate in-between. A hinged joint connects the medallion and the chain.

References: Artamonov, 1962, p. 77; Kondakov, 1896, p. 193.

MICHAELSFELD NEAR ANAPA, FORMER KUBAN REGION

In 1892 a magnificent gold chain with a gold coin of Justi- nian I and three medallions in the locker was found on the steep bank near the colony Michaelsfeld. A hypothesis was advanced that the chain comes from a grave which had slid down the hill. In 1893 K. E. Dumberg, member of the Archaeological Commission, explored the site. The excava- tions carried out at the foot of the bank slope and uphill cor- roborated the earlier hypothesis. Human bones, gold pen- dants, pieces of an iron knife, a bone handle, a broken mirror and a gold pendant decoration were found. Local people said that a silver fibula and a buckle belonged to the site too.

In 1895 another gold medallion resembling in style and technique the gold adornments from the Michaelsfeld find was found on the same site. Most probably this medallion came from the same destroyed grave, like the objects described above. The burial of a high-born nomad is dated to the Great Migration of Peoples, 6th — early 7th century AD. References: RAC for 1892, p. 92, drawing 55; RAC for 1893, pp. 8-9, drawing 9; RAC for 1895, p. 66, drawing 163; Kondakov, 1896, pp. 193-195, 200-202, drawings 104-106, 115, 116.

33-34. PENDANTS Gold. Silver. Size 7.3 x 5.5 cm. Inv. No 2134/5-6.

The pair of pendants consists of several separate structural

and decorative details welded together. At the base there is a full moon of two welded halves. The hollowness is filled with “padding”. The basic element in the decorations is a compo- sition of big and small beads. Besides, the pendants are deco- rated with gems of glass set in separate mounts from later- ally welded strips in the mounts formed by figure ribs. The gems have not been completely preserved.

References: RAC for 1893, pp. 8-9, drawing 9; Kondakov, 1896, pp. 200-202, drawings 115-116; Tolstoy, Kondakov, 1897, pp. 141~ 142, drawing 201.

35. MEDALLION Gold. Glass. Size: 5.8 x 2.5 cm. Inv. No 2134/3.

The medallion is from an oval gold plate. There is a gem in the middle, transparent, yellowish glass in a mount of later- ally welded strip. A filigree circle around the mount — a strip of beads, “knotwork”, thin band welded laterally and a cir- cle of large beads. A metal loop with a longitudinal groove decorated with beads is welded on the top. A loop of a metal thread coupled with an almond-shaped pendant underneath. The pendant is decorated with a mount (the gem is missing) and a circle of beads. At the end of the pendant there is a pyramid of three beads.

Reference: RAC for 1895, p. 66, drawing 163.

36. A CHAIN WITH THREE MEDALLIONS Gold. Onyx. Glass. Length of the chain 66 cm. Inv. No 2134/1.

The chain is solid, from thread-like folded and coupled links, as a result of which an impression is produced of a knit, quadrangular cord. There are gold biconical shaped elements in the ends with round metal loops. The clasp has a hinged joint and is decorated with a coin of Justinian I in a circle of a thread with large beads. Three gold oval medallions are at- tached to the chain with onyx gems in mounts of a laterally welded narrow plate. Circles formed by a row of beads and “knotwork” around the mounts. Loops of plates are welded to the upper part of the medallion and loops of metal wires to the lower, coupling with the pendants. An almond-shaped pendant with a mount of red glass on the central medallion has survived.

The pendant ends with a pyramid of four large beads. A cross is stamped on the medallion's reverse.

The coin of Justinian and the image on the reverse of the medallions suggest that the chain must have been made in a Byzantine workshop.

References: RAC for 1892, p. 93, drawing 55; Kondakov, 1896, pp. 193-195, drawings 104-106; Artamonov, 1962, p. 152.

SLAV MONUMENTS OFTHE 6 CENTURIES ALONG

THE RIVERS BUG AND DNIEPER

Cat. Nos 37-43

Numerous Slav tribes inhabited the expanse of the forest- steppe zone to the north of the Kutriguri and other peoples of the steppes in Eastern Europe in the 6th-7th century. Their origin is a subject of never-ending disputes, yet for the time being none of the hypotheses advanced can be taken as one hundred per cent proved. Archaeologists continue to seek an answer to the question (Sedov, 1979; Tretyakov, 1982; Shchukin, 1987). However, it is clear enough that at the time when written sources mention the Slavs for the first time as Slavs in 512 AD, they had already produced their original culture which tangibly differentiated them from all remain- ing neighbours. In mid-6th century the Slavs were already well known to Byzantium which had to parry off repeatedly the invasions of Slav tribes in the Empire's Danubian pro- vinces.

Authors in mid-6th century describe in detail the appear- ance, the way of life and name the places where those people settled. Archaeologists dealing with that epoch easily iden- tify where Slavs had settled and agree fully with what Byzantine authors write about the Slavs' settlements: they

were small, unfortified and situated in swamp lowlands. The historian Iordanes who lived in mid-6th century mentioned three groups of Slavs: Sklavenoi, Antae and Veneti, who stemmed from one common root. The Sklavenoi were the westernmost; the Veneti were the northernmost; and Ior- danes very exactly situated the Antae: "from Danastra to Danapra" (Iordanes, Getica, 34-35, 119). Archaeologists know of three archaeological cultures which are very similar to each other: that of Prague-Korchak, Penkovo and Kolochinsk. The first was spread from the Elbe to the Dnieper in mid-7th century; the second from Moldavia to the Dnieper, with an outlet in the southern part of the forest- steppe on the left bank, could be that of the Antae; and the third occupied the northernmost regions on the left bank of the Dnieper. Recent studies on the last two convincingly trace a common root: the Kievan culture between the 2nd and 5th century, which also spread on the western bank of the Dnieper (Goryunov, 1981; Terpilovski, 1984). As re- gards the Kolochinsk culture, indeed the opinions of scholars diverge: some are inclined to ascribe it not to the Slavs but to

the Baltic tribes, yet the contradiction may be eliminated if we take into account the linguists' view supposing the exis- tence of a Baltic-Slavonic language community in antiquity. The differences between the three Slav cultures are exclu- sively in the prevalence of one shape on the pots or another. Yet in the three cultures the topography of the settlements is the same; the form of dwellings is the same — a small] qua- drangular dugout 4 x 4 m with a stone oven in the corner. The walls of the dwellings were panelled with wood, or with planks between the props or with the beams of the scaffold- ing. The floor in the dwellings was earth and was probably covered with hay or reed. Slavs of each one of the three cul- tures used pottery which was very rough in shape and con- sisted only of pots and pans. Unlike the neighbouring peoples in the 6th-7th century, the Slavs made neither jugs nor bowls. The Antae, bearers of the Penkovo culture, who were close neighbours to the peoples of the steppes, acquired small quantities (0.4-5.8) of clay ceramics of the so-called shepherd type: grey, ornamented with glazed strips, the same as in the ancient nomadic times (Sedov, 1982, p. 24), Finds in the Penkovo settlements — remains from tent dwellings — likewise testify to close contacts with nomads. The Penkovo culture tribes were land-tillers and the iron ploughshares that have been found are evidence that they ploughed. Along with those they used iron hoes to cultivate the land. They gathered in the harvest using sickles and

hunched scythes. They ground grain with querns. The numerous animal bones in the settlements give an idea of what domestic animals they raised: mainly cattle, used as draught animals also. Hunting and fishing helped livelihood. Metalworking and _ iron- mongery are corroborated by remains from furnaces to melt iron and by finds of implements for ironmongery and goldsmithery. Finds of objects from non-ferrous metals, melting pots for bronze, moulds to cast pendants, buckles and fibulae likewise testify to the development of the goldsmith trades. However, scholars believe that the Pen- kovo craftsmen were not artisans in the true sense of the word: they made decorative objects in addition to their main work (Prikhodnyuk, 1986, pp. 163, 164 ff). Other domestic productions were common too: spinning and weaving, work- ing bone and stone, wood and fur. Distaffs, iron needles and bone instruments to process furs (spades and smoothed ribs), knives, palstaves, awls and axes prove it.

The necropoli of the early Slav tribes are as a rule devoid of

mound, with remains of cremation in clay urns or simply in the pits; burials under mounds have been found in the Zhitomir region only.

Another category of finds related to the Slavs have been found in the forest-steppe zones of Eastern Europe. It is a set of hoards including original objects, sometimes tentatively called “ancient monuments of the Antae”. The treasures comprise big bronze or silver fibulae shaped like two figural pieces coupled by an arched catchplate. One of the plates has five or six radial projections. Such fibulae are called “finger” — type fibulae; those treasures contain also other varieties of fibulae, parts of different temple hoops, pendants, solid silver buckles, belt ends, ornaments of the nomadic belt and other objects. One of the biggest treasures was found near the village of Martinovka along the middle reaches of the Dnieper. The Byzantine silver vessels with seals of craftsmen who worked in Constantinople in the 6th century fairly reli- ably date the treasure. Together with the Byzantine, nomadic and Avar objects, there are items unparalleled in other cul- tures. For example, buckles shaped like human figures as if dancing in a squat position with arms akimbo, and figures of running horses whose hooves are shaped like hooks. “Finger”-type fibulae were widespread in the 6th and 7th cen- tury in different cultures of Eastern and Western Europe ex- cept for nomadic cultures, but the specific decoration and shape of some fibulae belonging to the “ancient monuments of the Antae” suggest that a Dnieper Slav centre of their pro- cuction must have existed

Research in recent years has enabled us to distir.guish the early group of treasures of the 6th-7th century that could have been hidden because of the Avar invasion; the treasures of the latter half of the 7th and the 8th century must have been hidden in the turbulent times when the neighbour Khazar Khanate was founded (Sedov, 1982, p. 25).

The exhibition presents some objects from excavations of Penkovo cultural monuments along the southern Bug (Cat. Nos 37~—41) and two fibulae of chance finds along the middle reaches of the Dnieper 5 (Cat. Nos 42, 43) included in the area of that same culture.

SKIBINTSI NEAR TROSTYANETS, VINITSA REGION

The settlement is situated on the island of Mitkovski along

the Southern Bug, between the villages Skibintsi and Mit- kovka. In 1959 the Podolsk expedition of the Leningrad Uni- versity and the State Hermitage under P. I. Khavlyuk disco- vered two half-dugout dwellings with stone ovens in one corner, two domestic utensils and several cellar pits. A build- ing which most probably was a smelting shop is most in- teresting. Together with the modelled Penkovo ceramics pieces have been found of iron slag, crucibles, casting moulds for triangular pendants and belt buckles. The site has pro- duced a remarkable find: a bronze plate featuring a running lion (Cat. No 37) which is stylistically comparable to the horse figurines in the above-mentioned Martinovka treasure of the 6th-7th century. A bronze bracelet with thick ends (Cat. No 38), characteristic of the period in question, has been found in one of the dwellings.

References: Khavlyuk, 1960, pp. 49-53; Khavlyuk, 1961, p. 193; Khavlyuk, 1974, pp. 188-193; Sedov, 1982, pp. 19-28.

37. BUCKLE — MARTINOVKA TYPE LION Bronze. Maximum length 8 cm. Inv. No 88/230

Cast as a profile figure of a running lion; head in full face; the back part is concave; a slit for fixing is seen near the paws; the mane is a circle with hatches; the eyes are end-to- end openings in which there had been colour gems; traces of enamel] fill the arches over the brows, the hollows of the mane and the lozenge-shaped hollow on the side of the fi- gure. Probably decorated a saddle or a dress. Stylistically close to the horses of the famous 6th-7th century Martinovka treasure.

References: Khavlyuk, 1960, p. 50, drawing on p. 51; Sedov, 1982, table IV, 7.

38. BRACELET Bronze. Diameter 8 cm. Inv. No 88/139.

Cast, round section, with quadrangular thick ends. References: Khavlyuk, 1960, p. 51, drawing 4 on p. 52; Sedov, 1982, table IV, 8.

VILLAGE OF SEMENKI NEAR NEMIROV, VINITSA REGION

The settlement lies on a broad terrace over the level of the

spring floods on the right bank of the Southern Bug. P. I. Khavlyuk's excavations in 1959-1962 discovered 29 dwel- lings, eight farm buildings and 19 pits.

It is one of the biggest early Slav settlements along the Southern Bug where two successive building periods have been traced.

Some of the early buildings with walls of pile construction panelled with wooden beams were replaced by later half- dugouts with wooden scaffolding. Both had stone ovens to heat them. Farm pits and buildings, those for production in- cluded, were next to the dwellings. They were slightly bigger than the dwellings, rectangular in shape, slightly dug into the soil, and had no oven. Implements have been found in many buildings: iron knives, bone spades to work animal hides, a distaff, whetting stones, many animal bones and broken pottery. Remains of an iron-melting furnace with pieces of slag in it have been found near some farm buildings, as well as pieces of casting moulds of soft stone.

The vessels presented at the exhibition (Cat. Nos 39-40) come from buildings I and IV of the 6th-7th century early period, and the shepherd-type earring (Cat. No 41) and some of grey pottery fragments — from farm building VI of the later period, which suggests that the settlement might have existed till the late 7th century and possibly even till the early 8th century.

References: Khavlyuk, 1974, p. 197; Rusanova, Prikhodnyuk, 1975, p. 48; Aibabin, 1973, pp. 62—73.

1976; p. 102;

39. MODELLED POT

Clay. 19.7 cm high. Diameter of the mouth 12.5-13 cm; diameter of the bottom 9.2—9.7 cm.

Inv. No 89/143.

Asymmetric with taut body, becoming wider in its upper part, open mouth, short, slightly bent rim; two holes for mending the pot under the crown.

Reference: Khavlyuk, 1963, p. 334, drawing 5:1.

40. MODELLED POT Clay. 19 cm high. Diameter of the mouth 14.5-14.7 cm; diameter of the bottom 9.5—10 cm. Inv. No 89/238.

Asymmetrical, tulip-shaped body, widened halfway up, broadly open mouth and slightly bent rim. Reference: Khavlyuk, 1963, p. 334, drawing 9:6.

41. TEMPORAL RING —- SHEPHERD-TYPE EARRING, 7th-8th CENTURY.

Bronze. Diameter 4.2 cm, 6 cm high.

Inv. No 89/158.

Cast, uncoupled, three protrusions in the lower part of the ring; the middle lozenge-shaped protrusion has several small apertures; the small lateral protrusions have one aperture each.

References: Khavlyuk, 1963, p. 334, drawing 14:3; Aibabin, 1973, pp. 62—73; Sedov, 1982, table IV, 1.

VILLAGE OF SUKHINI NEAR KANEV, KIEV REGION

A fibula found by chance. Donation by the local inhabitant K. F. Ertambovski in 1896. First in the collection of N. E. Bran- denburg; next in the Artillery Museum in Leningrad; in 1932 it was acquired by the Hermitage. The village of Sukhini lies along the middle course of the Dnieper, where early Slav Penkovo culture was spread.

42. FIBULA, 6th-7th CENTURY Bronze, 14.4 cm long. Inv. No 1093/2.

Two-piece, cast “finger”-type fibula. The “fingers” feature heads of birds with curved beaks and form an open-work pattern. The plates are ornamented with concentric circles and dots. The foot features an animal’s head.

Traces of a bronze spring on the reverse between two stands and an iron pin for fastening the fibula.

Unpublished.

VILLAGE OF MARTINOVKA NEAR KANEV, KIEV REGION

In 1897 peasants destroyed an inhumation burial site in the village where the famous Martinovka treasure containing silver Byzantine and barbarian objects of the 6th-7th cen- tury was found. N. E. Brandenburg bought the two fibulae found there. His collection was acquired first by the Artillery Museum and next by the Hermitage.

43. FIBULA, 6th CENTURY Bronze. 8.1 cm long. Inv. No 1093/1.

It is one of the two “finger”-type fibulae from the burial de- stroyed in 1897. Itis relatively small, with a “Kerbschnitt” ornament of the plates. The foot ends with an animal’s head. There are traces of repairing. A new catchplate for the pin has been made to replace the broken one; it is riveted to the front part of the foot. The rivet covers the “Kerbschnitt” or- nament.

Unpublished.

NECROPOLI OF THE CRIMEAN GOTHS

Cat. Nos 44-50

Goths were among the peoples that played a major role in the history of Eastern and Western Europe. In the mid-3rd cen- tury AD they abandoned the Baltic shores and together with some other Germanic tribes appeared in the lands north of the Black Sea, invaded the Roman Empire’s Balkan pro- vinces and Asia Minor, and then settled. It is supposed that the Goths were a constituent part of the population with polyethnic Chernyakhov: culture created in the Northern Pontic lands when they appeared there. The Hunnic invasion drove the Goths away from

the Pontic lands and they moved westwards, first to Thrace and then settled over Southern Europe. Gothic kingdoms emerged in Italy, Spain and Southern France. Goths lived in Pannonia along the middle reaches of the Danube.

There are necropoli in the Crimea that have provided various objects: big two-piece and "finger"-type fibulae, and buck- les with birds' heads, which amazingly resemble those in Southern France where Gothic presence has been proved (Ambroz, 1969).

Written sources mention Goths living in the Crimea in the 6th-7th century. Travellers in the 17th century recorded a blue-eyed and red-haired population speaking a language akin to German.

It is not yet clear exactly what Goths buried their dead in such necropoli. One such necropolis has been excavated in Suuk-Su near Gurzuf. Were they Goths who had penetrated into the Crimea during the first Goths' migration to the

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Black Sea shores, or were they some of the bearers of the Chernyakhov culture who hid in the Crimea during the Hun- nic invasion? Sources contain evidence, though vague, that in early 5th century, in 408 AD, some Goths who lived in Thrace were allowed to settle in the Chersonesos (Sidorenko, 1987). Procopius of Caesarea, a mid-6th century author, writes that Goths who in 488 AD had not left with Theodoric for Italy, lived in the Dori country in the Crimea, where Justinian | had built the fortresses Alusta and Gorzubiti (Alushta and Gurzuf). Justinian often settled barbarian foederati in the frontier fortresses and ever since Constantine's time, the be- ginning of the 4th century, the Goths had invariably been foederati in the Roman Empire. Such a contingent of Goths might have left the Suuk-Su necropolis.

The question boils down to dating the necropolis. Regretta- bly it is impossible to fix the date, because the necropolis has not been thoroughly excavated. But if the date suggested by many scholars — mid-6th century — is true (Ambroz, 1988; Aibabin, 1987; Pudovin, 1961), the latter version is most feasible.

Crimean Goths of the 6th-7th century apparently had some contacts with the Antae, though written sources say nothing about it. But there is quite a number of similar, even idential "finger"-type fibulae, both in the Gothic necropolis and in the treasures of the Antae.

Only the Crimean Goths were naturally involved in the pol- icy of the great powers, Byzantium and the Khazar Khanate.

ARTEK, THE CRIMEA

A silver "eagle's head" on a buckle was found by chance near Yalta, at Ayu-Dag Mountains, and bought by N. P. Repnikov for the ethnographic department of the Russian Museum. In 1953 the State Hermitage acquired it. According to Ambroz's typology, it is one of the oldest buckles: the longer the plate between the buckle and the figural plating, the later the ob- ject should be dated. The plate had to be made longer so that the belt end running across the buckle did not cover the richly decorated plating. Objects of this type are included in the group of burial sites in Suuk-Su with "finger'-type fibulae and coins from 629 to 668.

Reference: Ambroz, 1988.

44. BUCKLE, 7th CENTURY Silver. Copper. Glass. 20 cm long. Inv. No 2834/6.

Cast belt buckle. The frame is oval, with cut off ends and ani- mal muzzles in the ends. There is a square shield with a pro- jection featuring a bird's head. The tongue is zoomorphic, with a solid metal loop on the reverse. The buckle is deco- rated with a relief ornament and gems of glass in cast mounts (8 gems have survived). Four copper plates are attached to the reverse by pins.

References: Artamonov, 1962, p. 163; Repnikov, 1906, p. 50, table VIII, 5.

SUUK-SU, NEAR GURZUF, IN THE CRIMEA

In 1903 the Archaeological Commission entrusted the exca- vations in the necropolis to N. I. Repnikov and N. E. Makaren- ko. In 1904-1905 N. I. Repnikov continued the excavations. During those years he also bought objects from local people. The excavations revealed 200 graves with burials in stone coffins forming the upper layer and dated to the 9th—11thcen- tury: graves of the lower layer (110 burials) are dated to the Early Middle Ages — 6th — 7th century AD. The burials were made in simple earth graves with wooden covering and sel- dom in earth family sepulchres.

The earliest and richest burials were found in the northern part of the necropolis. Slightly later burials were found in

the southern part; from the 6th century on — in all the ne- cropolis, as evident from the identical objects in the sites. Women's 6th century burials were very rich: big gold ear- rings with a polyhedral bead, small gold or silver earrings with a pyramid of beads, silver plate fibulae (Cat. No 50) and big solid silver buckles with a head of a falcon and a short frame holder (Cat. No 46), bronze or silver bracelets with widening ends (Cat. No 45), bells, plate finger rings or necklaces of glass and amber. The solid buckles with a fal- con's head and a long frame holder (Cat. No 44) are examples of the later development of such buckles with a short hol- der, and date back to late 6th and the first half of the 7th cen- tury. The "finger"-type fibulae of the so-called Dnieper type (Cat. Nos 48—49) are ascribed to the same period.

The finds from the Suuk-Su necropolis have attracted the at- tention of scholars who deal with early mediaeval monu- ments from different countries. Dating the necropolis is of primary importance: it varies between the 5th and 8th cen- tury. But most authors are inclined to date it to 6th-7th cen- tury; some confine it to 100 years: the latter half of the 6th century to the first half of the 7th century.

References: Repnikov, 1906, pp. 1-35; Pudovin, 1961, pp. 177-185; Ambruoz, 1988, pp. 5-12.

45. BRACELET, 6th CENTURY Silver. Gold. Diameter 7.3 cm.

Inv. No 1920/4. Chance find in 1903. A bracelet of a silver rod with ends expanding like a tube.

Filigree-ornamented caps from a gold plate are attached to the ends. The bracelet was found in a pair with another simi- lar bracelet.

Reference: Repnikov, 1906, p. 29, table XI, 14.

46. BUCKLE, LATTER HALF OF

THE 6th CENTURY —-— EARLY 7th CENTURY Silver. Glass. 19 cm long.

Inv. No 1917/6. Grave 28.

Cast belt buckle. The frame is oval, with cut off ends with animal muzzles. The shield is a square with a projection, featuring a bird's head. The tongue is zoomorphic, with a solid metal loop on the reverse. The buckle is decorated with

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a relief with glass gems (three gems out of the 15 have sur- vived). Reference: Repnikov, 1906, pp. 8-9, table VII, 4.

47. EARRINGS Gold. Glass. Paste. Diameter 5.3 cm. Inv. No 1918/1-2. Grave 89.

The pair of earrings are a thread-like structure, with a bead of whitish substance (paste) thrust into it and gold-plated. The bead is decorated with granules and four red glass gems in mounts of a laterally welded gold strip

(only one mount on each earring has survived).

Reference: Repnikov, 1906, p. 27, table I, 13.

48. FIBULA, 7th CENTURY Bronze. 7.2 cm long. The shield is 3.2 em wide. Inv. No 1917/36. Grave 55.

Open-work and cast fibula. The foot is oval at the base, with lateral protrusions featuring birds' heads, and a lozenge- shaped projection at the end. The shield is triangular; lateral birds' heads. The pin, spring and catchplate are missing. Reference: Repnikov, 1906, p. 15, table VI, 5.

49. FIBULA, 7th CENTURY Bronze. 16.8 cm long.

Inv. No 1919/7. Purchased 1903-1905. "Finger"-type cast fibula. The foot is lozenge-shaped, with

three lateral protrusions and an animal's muzzle at the end. The shield is semi-circular, with five rays like rounded pro- jections. The fibula's surface is ornamented with concentric lines and the foot has a rectangle of eight rows of squares. Reference: Repnikov, 1906, p. 29, table VIII, 9.

50. FIBULA, 6th CENTURY Silver. Bronze. 16.4 cm long. The shield is 9.6 cm wide. Inv. No 1918/5. Grave 89.

Two-piece wrought fibula. The foot is elongated, with a rounded end and longitudinal edge. The shield is triangular, with cut off ends. The arc-shaped handle is high, two-walled, hollow inside. Decorative appliques lie in the corners of the

shield. A bronze plate frame with a clasp on the reverse; the clasp comprises a bronze spring, a pin and a silver catch- plate.

Reference: Repnikov, 1906, p. 27, table VII, 8.

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Conquests of the Turki (550-600 AD) (after L. N. Gumilyov)

CULTURE OF THE TURKI IN SIBERIA FROM THE 7° TO THE 9" CENTURIES

TURKI IN ASIA AND EUROPE Cat. Nos 51-69

The steppes stretch from the fertile valley of the river Hwang Ho in China to the valley of the Danube across Eurasia. Here and there they are broken by mountain ridges and plateaux, wide rivers and dry deserts, but those natural barriers did not check the migrations of the numerous nomadic tribes that inhabited the vast steppes and lived a life on horseback which enabled them to cover great dis- tances with ease.

Boundless as the steppes were, their numerous inhabitants needed new pastures to graze their countless herds. Unsteady balance is the mode of nomadic life. If the winter was too bleak and with much snow, and the summer too dry and hot, they had to find new pastures in order to survive. Besides, nomadic economy did not need plenty of workers: a few herdsmen could tend a very big herd, so there was al- ways a certain number of people in a nomadic society free to hold the sword and bow. Nomadic economy was confined to stockbreeding, but nomads needed also agricultural produce and industrial goods: textiles, weapons, luxuries and domes- tic items. The local limited production could not supply nomads with all that, so they had to seek opportunities for

symbiosis with neighbouring land-tillers and civilized “in- dustrial” countries: China, Iran and Byzantium. They could get what they needed either through trade or war. So war be- came as habitual for nomads as stockbreeding.

Strength was needed to conquer new lands and exhort tri- bute from other countries and peoples, hence big tribal al- liances were formed. Quite often they were unstable and did not survive their founder — a talented leader and organizer or his immediate successors. Nomadic states quickly disinteg- rated and new ones were formed in their stead in which another tribe or family played a key role and became the eponym of the new political formation.

The migrations of big and small groups of nomads all] over the steppes led to outbreaks of wars here and there, and to the formation and disintegration of states. The steppes were an invariably rough sea.

Attila’s Hunnic empire flourished in the west, whereas far in the east an event was surging, quite natural for the nomadic world but with far-reaching consequences in the future. Ac- cording to the legend (which exists in several variants), an offshoot of the house of Hunnu, nicknamed Ashina, inha-

bited the southern part of the Gobi desert, along the border with China. The tribe was defeated and slaughtered by its neighbours; just a boy survived whom a she-wolf found and nurtured. Their children and grandchildren crossed the de- sert and settled in Altai. One of the 70 migrating brothers bore the name Turk, i.e. strong, healthy (Gumilyov, 1967, p. 22). The settlers submitted to the power of the people Zhuan- Zhuanei and melted iron for them.

Though the she-wolf is a recurrent motif in world folklore, the very fact of the migration of a group of people south of the Altai is not doubted by scholars. The supposed date of the event is ca. 439 or ca. 460.

The first authentic historical personality of the new people Turkuti* that was formed in Altai was their leader Tuamin. In 545 an envoy of the emperor of the state of Wei visited him to seek allies against the nomads Zhuan-Zhuanei and against his enemies in China. An embassy returned the visit in the town of Chanian. Tuamin

married a Chinese princes. Their forces were not big but the numerous local tribes Tele succumbed to them. Joint effort defeated the Zhuan- Zhuanei. In 552 Tuamin died but his successors continued to expand and consolidate the state. The states of China, rent by never-ending contradictions, continually enlisted the nomads for their wars and generously paid with rich gifts and silk because often they were actually dependent on the support of the Turkuti.

Northern mounted groups went as far as the Yellow Sea shores, the borders with Korea and the dagger found at Lake Borovoe, analogous to the Korean dagger, might be a product of such a situation. The Turkuti became the leading factor in the steppes. Along with the campaigns in the east, they also advanced to the west, with Istemi, Tuamin's younger brother in the lead. In 555 they reached the river Syr Darya and the Aral Sea, and in 558 — the Volga. The tribes Chionites, Wari and Ogori were defeated and retreated to the west. Istemi stopped here. The Turki had to fight the Hephthalite Huns ruling Central Asia. Between 560 and 565 a war was fought

* The term Turkuti was introduced by L. N. Gumilyov, not very appropriately perhaps, to differentiate between the descendants of the population who set- tled in Altai and the Turki, numerous people speaking Turkic languages. The very settlers might not even have been Turki, who learned Turkic in Altai, having previously spoken one of the Mongolian dialects (Gumilyov, 1967, pp. 24-25).

in which the Turkuti were natural allies of Sassanid Iran. The Hephthalites were defeated, but the victorious allies could not divide the booty and became enemies.

The Chionites and Wari chased by the Turkuti joined and called themselves Avars. They united with the Kutriguri, subjugated the Antae and made for Central Europe. They defeated the Gepidae and the valley of the Tisza and after the Lombards' retreat to Italy in 568, they conquered Pannonia. The Avar Khanate was formed. It is not quite clear where the eastern border of the alliance was. It comprised the Kut- riguri and Antae who settled as far as the Don and the Severskiy Donets. But it is difficult to advance a plausible hypothesis about the interrelations of all those population groups and the Avar khagans.

Different peoples lived between the rivers Don and Volga and the Northern Caucasus. They had been living there ever- since, or came with the Huns, or even later. Among those people were the Bulgars, Saviri, Utigurs and Alani. The Khazars might have been one of those peoples, but the facts to this effect are vague.

After the defeat of the Hephthalites, Istemi continued his conquests westwards. The Arab scholar Tabari wrote that the Turkic khagan had conquered the b-n-j-r (the Bulgars), the Belengeri and the Khazars, and tried to penetrate into Transcaucasia, but the strong fortress built by the Iranian shah checked him. He then subordinated the Alani and Utigurs and began to maintain active diplomatic relations with Byzantium. At this moment the state of the Turkuti (the first Turkic Khanate) stretched from the Yellow Sea to the Black Sea, but the moment was short. In 576 Turksanf, Istemi's son, declared war on Byzantium for the Bosporus and the Crimea; next he attacked Colchis, but in "that minute, Theophylactus or Simocatta writes, when victory was smiling at the khagan, the Turki were rent by a civil war". In 581, after the death of Tobokhan, the Turkic sup- reme khagan, members of the Ashina family began a struggle for power. Turksanf participated in it. The khanate split into a western half with a centre in the Seven Rivers and an east- ern half with a centre in Mongolia.

The endless wars between Iran and Byzantium went on. Emperor Heraclius who ascended to the Byzantine throne in 610 sought the Turki for allies against Iran and the Avars who were a constant threat to Constantinople and received a patrician title; his retinue were converted to Christianity. It

might have been Organa, though sources say nothing definite about it.

Next Heraclius, Theophanes' Chronographia reads, united with the eastern Turki called Khazars. Together with the Turki the Byzantine army staged a long but unsuccessful siege of Thilisi. In 622 and 627 Heraclius resorted to a desperate raid into the enemy's deep rear and captured the shah's palaces, but this did not take him to a final victory, so he returned, not without effort. at that. After the second raid, a court coup was carried out in Iran,

which was good for Heraclius, and the new shah Kavadh concluded peace with Byzantium in 628. It was separatist peace, however, which excluded the Turki who finally seized Tbilisi and plundered Caucasian Albania. But internecine strife in the Turkic Kha- nate continued and the armies left the Transcaucasia. In 630 the tribes of the Dulu alliance revolted again Tun-Jabgu Khan who ruled the Western Khanate. The revolt was headed by a Mokhodu, uncle of Tun-Jabgu, who was the Organa that some scholars identified him with (Gumilyov, 1967, p. 202). Tun-Jabgu was killed, but Mokhodu himself was killed too next year in the struggle for power that ensued. The Chinese Tang Empire which had grown stronger meanwhile put an end to the hegemony of the Eastern Turkic Khanate along its borders. The Western Khanate, rent by an internecine strife, was not a decisive factor and disintegrated into numerous warring dominions. One of those dominions evolved into the Khazar Khanate.

Again in 630, when Tun-Jabgu Khan was killed, the Avar khan Boyan died. The Kutriguri produced a claimant to the throne, but met with defeat. Kubrat, Organa's nephew on the female line of descent, united the tribes of Bulgars, former enemies of the Kutriguri and Utiguri, and another state — Great Bulgaria — emerged in the westernmost fringes of the former Turkic Khanate. Sources do not make it very clear whether it occupied only the lands east of the Sea of Azov or it stretched as far as the Dnieper. Kubrat came from the fam- ily Dulu and the Khazar khagans from the Ashina family andin that internecine strife which continued on the territories of the former Turkic Khanate it is natural that they became enemies.

The tribes Tele, who succumbed to the Turki under Tuamin and always sought how to rid themselves of their domina- tion, lived in the northeastern territories of the Turkic Kha- nate. They did not miss the chance this time either. In 628

they founded a state of Tokuz-Oguzi ("nine tribes", after the number of the tribes forming the alliance) of the Seyanto Khanate, named after the most powerful tribe. After 646 the Uighuri came to play a leading role in this alliance. Various tribes of the Tugu Turki united to fight them and formed again the Turkic Khanate in 679. The Second Khanate was inferior in size and short-lived. The campaign from 709 to 711, when one of the eminent figures in that state Kul- Tegin captured Tuva, penetrated into Altai in winter, defeated the Kirghizes at the Yenisey and reached the Irtysh, is one of the numerous that the khagans of the Second Kha- nate undertook and that merits special attention. In 742 the Second Khanate fell to the attacks of the Uighuri and Kar- luks; the Uighuri seized power and one hundred years later the Kirghizes displaced them. Those newcomers from the Yenisey formed a vast state incorporating Mongolia, Jun- garia, Eastern Turkestan, the upper course of the Amur up to the Tien Shan (Savinov, 1984). The Kirghiz state existed till the 10th century.

The small collection of finds from Altai and Tuva presented at this exhibition gives just a general impression of the Turki and the tribes that they ruled, and is far from tracing the diversity and richness of their culture. But those ancient monuments stir up special interest because the Turkuti had inhabited Altai before they entered the scene of history. The Kudirge necropolis dates back perhaps to the First Turkic Khanate; the Mongun-Taiga necropolis — to the end of the First and the Second Khanate. Siberian chronology has not been elaborated to an extent to allow exact dating, which is always in terms of centuries, hence the complications in comparing archaeological monuments with dated historical events. It is difficult also to establish whether the burials belong to Turkuti, to Tele or to other peoples of the Turkic khanates. Siberian archaeologists have disputes on all those questions.

Grave offerings from the Srostki necropolis date back to the "Kirghiz state", 9th — 10th century. The characteristic floral ornament on the sword sheath (Cat. No 69)) is very similar to ornamentation widespread in Kirghiz ancient monuments. Yet the Srostki necropolis belongs to the western neighbours of the Kirghizes, not to the Kirghizes themselves, representing the Kymak-Kipchak tribal alliance.

Uighuri participated in the formation of this alliance, archaeologically represented by the Srostki culture. Some

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The Khazar Khanate in the 6th—7th century (after S. A. Pletneva)

of them moved from Mongolia to the Irtysh after the defeat in 840 (Savinov, 1984, pp. 103-118). The Polovtsians, who appeared in mid-11th century in the southern Russian step- pes, are supposed to have come from the Kymak-Kipchak alliance.

KUDIRGE NECROPOLIS, EASTERN ALTAI

The Kudirge locality is situated on the bank of the river Chulisman, 15 km away from where it flows into Lake Te-

letsk. About 40 tumuli with stones piled on them and at least 60 quadrangular stone fences 2 or 4 metres wide and long are situated on a site which is 1 km long and 100 to 250 m wide. In 1924-25 S. N. Rudenko and A. N. Glukhov and in 1948 A. A. Gavrilova carried out excavations. Most of the 26 opened tumuli contain a horse burial and 15 contain parti- tions in which there is no burial but which used to contain objects and animal bones.

Five tumuli are dated between the 13th and 14th century; the remaining to the 6th and 7th century. Tumulus 15 has pro- duced a Chinese coin dated 575-577 AD. As to the fences in

the centre of the necropolis, a hypothesis has been advanced with grooves for the bow-string. There are transverse

that they might be earlier than the tumuli. hatches on the back side to fix better the bow’s wooden base. References: Rudenko, Glukhov, 1927; Gavrilova, 1984, pp. 38-39. The differing length of the appliques is explained with the 51-52. BOW APPLIQUES inevitable asymmetry of the bow when it is held in the mid- Horn. 19.7 and 23.3 cm long. dle. The asymmetry had to be corrected in order not to miss Inv. No 4150/175, 176. the target and this was done by the differing length of the

ends. They were found in tumulus 15 together with a piece of sim- Central Asia in the first half of the 8th century (after L.N. Gumilyov) ple silver drop-like earring ona hoop and remains of a sad-

Two slightly bent appliques on the ends of an elaborate bow,

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dle, stirrups and a copper Chinese coin from 575-577 AD. The tumulus was plundered in antiquity.

Unpublished. The description of tumulus 15 in A. A. Gav- rilova’s publication does not mention them; but the reverse of the appliques bears a legible inscription “MOT 15”, i.e. “tumulus 15”. The Hermitage acquired them

with an addi- tional description which did not specify the number of the tumulus.

53. END OF A BELT Bronze. 9 cm long. Inv. No 4150/158.

Open-work. A rectangular frame features three beasts with big heads, bare teeth and tough body (wolves?). The frame is ornamented with wrought “knotwork”.

The reverse has preserved remains of the belt.

Found in tumulus 11 where a warrior was buried with a horse.

The depiction of wolves is to be interpreted as the Turkic legend of the leader of the Ashina tribe who stemmed froma she-wolf. On the other hand, open-work belt ends in Central Europe are a characteristic feature of the culture of the Avars who came from the east.

Reference: Gavrilova, 1965, p. 25, table XVIII, 24.

54. STIRRUP Iron. Diameter 13.7 cm. Inv. No 4150/170.

The stirrup is rounded, bent by the only iron axis shaped like an 8, with a small upper part forming a hook to hang it on. The foot-rest is spread like a plate, rough on the outer side. Found in tumulus 11 together with bronze ornamented belt ends (Cat. No 53), buckles, clasps for clothes, arrowheads and a knife. There is an iron curb-bit in the horse’s jaws. Reference: Gavrilova, 1965, p. 25.

55. PSALIUM Horn. 16 cm long. Inv. No 4150/1.

One of the two psalia is shaped like a bent plate with two rectangular openings on the curve. These psalia are inserted

into the rings of the curb-bit; the bridles and the curbs go through the openings. They restrict the curb-bit’s movability in the horses’s mouth and make it easy to drive him.

Found in tumulus 1 near the horse’s jaw together with the curb-bit, cockades, stirrups and saddle girth buckle. Reference: Gavrilova, 1965, p. 22, 80-84.

56. CURB-BIT Iron. 18.3 cm long. Inv. No 4150/73.

From tumulus 4 where a woman and a child were buried. No horse burial, but horse harness was laid in the grave. Reference: Gavrilova, 1965, pp. 22-23.

MONGUN-TAIGA NECROPOLIS, TUVA ASSR

The high and hard to climb Mongun-Taiga (Silver Mountain) is where Tuva, Altai and Mongolia meet. An archaeological group of the ethnographic-archaeological expedition of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR led by A. D. Grach studied in 1957-1958 monuments of the ancient Turkic epoch bet- ween the 6th and 8th century — in the valley of the river Kargi: stone-covered tumuli surrounded by a fence contain- ing a human and a horse burial, cenotaph tumuli with offer- ings only and to skeletons, ritualistic stone facings and fences with traces of commemorative services. Occasionally stone figures appear around such fences or in their centre, while white individual stones form rows aside. Those stones (balbals) stand presumably for the number of enemies killed by the warrior to whom the monument was erected. Reference: Grach, 1960a; Grach, 1960b.

57. CHINESE MIRROR, 7th CENTURY White metal. Diameter 9.2 cm. Inv. No 2347/19.

On the reverse of the mirror there is a circular inscription of 20 hieroglyphs, a stanza: “On receiving the mirror presented by Tsin-Wan, do not hesitate to pay, put to attain your own nature and not to check what others think”. The central cir-

cle depicts four galloping animals, the so-called “dog-like sea-horses”, against a background of a “cloud” ornament. The depiction bears traces of the art styles characteristic of the both Han and Tang art in China.

A silk cord passes through the central loop. The side that reflects in carefully polished and slightly concave. Grach believes it was made not later than 627.

Found in tumulus 26 together with remains of silk textiles, a wooden comb, an iron cauldron and a knife. The horse har- ness is decorated with gold buckles; remains have survived of the saddle, stirrups, curb-bit and S-shaped part of a horse harness and saddle girth buckles.

References: Grach, 1958; Its, 1958.

58. QUIVER, 8th CENTURY Birch bark. 75 cm long. Inv. No 2347/25.

Found in cenotaph tumulus 4 during excavations in 1958. A horse was buried under the stone pile; there are iron stirrups under his skull. The funerary offerings are covered with a felt rug: a quiver with arrows (No 59), a wooden crozier with a bone head (No 60), a girdle with bronze heart-shaped buck- les, leather clothes with Chinese silk lining, bone applique on a bow, an iron curb-bit, saddle girth buckles, remains of an ancient dish of sacrificial food, a metallic vessel (Cat. No 61). The brace of the quiver consists of 21 rectangular iron plates from an armour in which additional openings were punched. There are three iron hooks for hanging. A Chinese bronze coin of the Tang dynasty was found in the quiver. Such coins of the Qaiyuan tunbao type were in circulation for a long time: between 621 and 907.

References: Grach, 1960b, pp. 129-139; Vorobyov, 1963.

59. ARROWHEADS (six), 8th CENTURY Iron. Bone. Size: from 8 to 12.5 cm. Inv. No 2348/26.

These are six of the 18 arrowheads found in the quiver (Cat. No 58). With three feathers, slim, differing in size and type. Two bigger arrowheads have openings on their flat ends; one has a bone hoot.

Reference: Grach, 1960b, pp. 129-139.

60. CROIZIER’S POINT, 8th CENTURY Bone. 8.5 cm high. Inv. No 2348/22.

Spherical upper part of a crozier (“cane”, in the definition of excavating archaeologists), with a polished bush and an end- to-end opening.

Found together with the quiver (Cat. No 58).

Reference: Grach, 1960, pp. 129-139.

61. SPHERICAL VESSEL WITH A HANDLE, 8th CENTURY

White metal. 9 cm high.

Inv. No 2348/20.

A small vessel of a silvery alloy, with an unbent rim and a spherical body on a small foot. The handle is welded to a heart-shaped part attached to the vessel by three rivets. Found in cenotaph tumulus 4 during the 1958 excavations. Reference: Grach, 1960b, p. 139, drawings 87-88.

62. STATUE OF A WARRIOR, 7th — 8th CENTURY Stone. 1.86 m high. Inv. No 2352/3.

Found in Mongun-Taiga, on the river Kargi. It stood at the end of a quadrangular fence (5.25 x 5.10 m), facing the east. A row of simple stones (balbals) was laid eastwards of the pedestal.

It features a male warrior, apparently a Mongoloid, with slightly squinting, almond-shaped eyes and prominent cheek-bones. Thin moustaches with curled up ends are visi- ble above the small mouth with tight lips. The arms are unproportionately slim, but the trapezium-shaped shoulders are prominent. He holds a spherical vessel in his right hand and a sword in his left hand. A dagger hangs on the girdle under the sword.

The lower part features a scene of two naked kneeling (or squatting) men, facing each other. The one holds a vessel; the other holds some vessel which is not clear in appearance. Reference: Grach, 1988b; Grach, 1961, No 5.

SROSTKI NECROPOLIS, UPPER ALTAI

The necropolis is near the village of Srostki, 35 km north of

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the town of Biisk. The objects from the 26 tumuli destroyed there were collected by M. D. Kopitov in 1924. They are kept in the Biisk Museum. In 1925 M. N. Komarova excavated 11 tumuli and in 1930 S. M. Sergeev explored another six. There are burials under the tumuli — inhumation and crema- tion (tumulus 2 of S. M. Sergeev's excavations). The exca- vated objects are kept in the Hermitage. The entire material of the necropolis is unpublished, though scholars refer to it for general history theories. The so-called Srostki culture of late 8th — 10th century, which spread in the northern foot- hills of Altai and as far as the lands locked between the rivers Tobol and Ishim, derives its name from this necropolis. It is believed that this culture is the product of the Turki in the Altai highlands, and of the Ugric-Samodic tribes and that in general it corresponds to the Kymak-Kipchak tribal alliance. The Koman-Polovtsians are supposed to have sprung from those tribes.

References: Zakharov, 1934; Kiselov, 1951, table VII; Cryaznov, 1930, drawings 143-170; Gavrilova, 1965, pp. 69-72; Mogilnikov, 1981; Savinov, 1984, pp. 103-118.

63-68. BELT ENDS, LATE 8th — 9th CENTURY Silver. Size: 7.2 cm and 3.2 cm. Inv. No 1285/74-79.

Six ends (four long and two short) to adorn decorative pen- dant straps of the nomadic belt. The ends are elongated, smooth, with faceted ends. Found in tumulus 2, with crema- tion of a corpse S. M. Sergeev's excavations in 1930, together with remains of a harness, weapons and a coin from between 766-780 AD.

Reference: Gavrilova, 1965, pp. 69-72.

69. SWORD WITH BRONZE DECORATION ON THE SHEATH, 9th CENTURY

Iron. Bronze. 85 cm long.

Inv. No 4381/6.

One-blade sword, the cross and the handle form an acute angle with the blade. The handle was coated with wood and gilted leather (the gilt is not preserved). Two lozenge-shaped buckles under the cross and an end, both decorated with a floral motif, is all that has survived of the sheath. Unpublished.

MONUMENTS OF NOMADS OF EASTERN EUROPE :

Ya WARY 8" CENTURIES

Cat. Nos 70-108

In the early 7th century there were three basic nomadic alliances in the European countries: Avars, Bulgars and Turki. The Avars coming from the east conquered Pannonia in the latter half of the 6th century and founded their

state, a khanate whose political influence spread on some of the Pontic lands too. The Bulgars were a Turkic-speaking people that appeared in Eastern Europe together with the Huns and stayed after the collapse of Attila's empire. Their settlements were on the Kuban (Great Bulgaria) and partly in the Pontic lands where in the first third of the 7th century they were ruled by the Avars. The Western Turkic Khanate (late 6th — first third of the 7th century) is one of the great states of that day, stretching from Altai to the Sea of Azov in the west and to the Amu-Darya and later to the Indus in the south. The word Turki in this case stands for a special people who appeared on the scene of history in mid-6th century and not for all tribes speaking Turkic languages. To the east the Western Turkic Khanate bordered on the Eastern Turkic Khanate with a centre on the territory of Mongolia. Both

states were ruled by khagans of the Ashina family. Turkic- speaking Khazars inhabited the western part of the Western Turkic Khanate who prior to 630 had been subjected to the rule of Turki but later founded their state on the Volga and the Don and in the Ciscaucasia. The centuries-old rivalry between the two great empires, Byzantium and Iran, the lat- ter ruled by the Sassanid dynasty (226-651 AD) influenced the situation in Eastern Europe. The Avars, neighbours of Byzantium, were actually allies of Iran, whereas the Turki and the Khazars together with them, acted against the Persians jointly with Byzantium. The situation repeatedly changed in the course of struggle but the main tendencies persisted till the second third of the 7th century when serious changes set in: the Turkic Khanate disintegrated; the Arabs seized Iran; Byzantium yielded its Asiatic and African territories to the Arabs. The ups and downs of political struggle are mirrored in the archaeological monuments of the East European nomadic aristocracy. The exhibition presents two burial complexes: the Pereshchepina treasure and a burial near the

village of Romanovskaya on the Don river.

A treasure dating from the Great Migration of Peoples was found by chance in the summer of 1912 in the sand dunes near the village of Malaya Pereshchepina near Poltava. The Pereshchepina treasure, as it was called shortly after the dis- covery, excels in riches and diversity all other treasures. Most of the rich occasional finds were stolen; yet this time archaeologists managed to collect the bulk of finds that local people had taken. In 1914 the Hermitage acquired the collec- tion. Several objects kept in the Poltava Museum perished during World War II (Semyonov, 1986, pp. 93-95). The Her- mitage keeps more than 650 gold and about 50 silver objects and 69 gold coins.

The first to study the Pereshchepina collection were: A. A. Bobrinski (1914), V. N. Beneshevich (1913), B. V. Far- makovski (1913), N. E. Makarenko (1912); their work was carried on by N. Bauer (1931) and L. A. Matzulewitsch (1927, 1929). They dated the treasure to the 7th century. Byzantine, Sassanid and perhaps local barbarian objects were found. Further research had to answer the question to what ancient people that complex had belonged to. Hypotheses were advanced that these were the ancient Slavs, but most scho- lars ascribed it to nomads reigning in the steppe (Laszlo, 1955; Korzukhina, 1955; Artamonov, 1962; Skalon, Mar- shak, 1972; Ambroz, 1982).

Most scholars stick to the second version of the character of the Pereshchepina complex (treasure, burial, sacrificial altar). Hungarian scholars notice the similarity between the Pereshchepina and Avar objects (Csallany, 1939; Laszlo, 1955). G. Laszlo draws interesting parallels between the Pereshchepina and Avar objects which enabled him to restore the saddle, girdle accessories and a quiver. The Soviet scholar A. K. Ambroz, on the contrary, stresses the Turkic nature of the Pereshchepina complex, regarding it as the sa- crificial altar of a sanctuary similar to the commemorative temples of the Turkic khagans. Other authors, e.g. A. V. Bank (1960), emphasized the objects of Byzantine origin in the nomadic background.

The West German scholar J. Werner (1984) launched a witty hypothesis regarding the Pereshchepina complex. He believes that it is the burial of Kubrat who died shortly after 641 that has been found in Pereshchepina. Kubrat, khan of the Bulgars, was former subject of the Avar khagan with whom he broke relations to form an alliance with the Byzan-

tine emperor Heraclius in 634-640. Heraclius lavished rich gifts on Kubrat and conferred on him the title of patrician. Sources report that Kubrat was a Christian.

The Turkic-speaking Bulgars camped on the Kuban and in some Pontic regions. In the last quater of the 7th century after Kubrat's death some of the Bulgars moved to the Danube and their descendants together with the Slavs formed the Bulgarian nationality and the state Bulgaria in the Balkans. Z. A. Lvova believes that there were two Kub- rats: the khan of Great Bulgaria on the Kuban and the vassal of the Avars who made friends with emperor Heraclius. The Pereshchepina complex is associated with the latter Kubrat. The Bulgars' migration to the Danube was caused by the occupation of their territory by another Turkic-speaking people, the Khazars. This is the reason why some scholars believe that the Khazars who had defeated the Bulgars were the last owners of the Pereshchepina treasure.

The authors of this section of the catalogue have prepared an unabridged publication of the extant objects from the Pereshchepina complex. A substantiai examination of the objects has enabled them to take into account their stylistics as well as construction and technique.

This makes it possible to group the objects, establish the suc- cessive order of the groups and reconstruct, as much as pos- sible, how the treasure was produced.

Most of the Pereshchepina coins lead to the conclusion that they had been acquired straight from Byzantium's treasury. So they might have been an imperial gift. There were two or three such gifts: in 629-632 two special gift medallions and four solidi were minted; in 637/638 — 40 (41) light solidi; bet- ween 642 and 646 — 19 light solidi. Many coins were included in the decorations that went into circulation in 629-632 and in 637/638, 642-646. They were included in various decorations, differing essentially in technique (Cat. No 88). This corroborates the assumption that the early gift of 629-632 should be isolated. The eight solidi could have been included in a gift only if, for instance, the treasurer had taken the remainder from a store of coins of Heraclius of 637/638 and added to them coins of Constans I] of 642-646 from another store. In one of the decorations of the light sol- idi there is a solidus with a normal weight dating from 638-641. The possibility that Heraclius' solidi of 637/638 were a special gift for Kubrat is not to be ruled out. Histo- rians believe that Heraclius conferred a patrician title on

Kubrat between 634 and 640.

We agree with J. Werner that some of the Pereshchepina objects belonged to the patrician Kubrat: a gold ring with his name and title (Cat. No 71), a gold buckle (Cat. No 72) with a matching belt end (Cat. No 73), gold bracelets, possibly a silver dish featuring a cross (Cat. No 76). All these insignia were conferred by emperor Heraclius. The date on the dish is deduced from the stamped 629 (630-641). According to Byzantine court ceremonies, the dish could be for gold coins only. Some objects and coins might have belonged to the pat- rician Organa, Kubrat's uncle, who visited Constantinople in 619 (Cat. Nos 70, 74, 75), though V. N. Zaleskaya reads his name on the gold ring with essential reservations.

The church plate (Cat. No 78) commissioned by Paterna, the bishop of Tomis and the Balkans, could not be an imperial gift. It was rather a barbarian booty during the Avar-Byzan- tine wars. The thick gilt on the dish and on the silver amphora (Cat. No 77) might have been laid in one centre, moreover outside Byzantium. It does not appear on the other Pereshchepina objects. Kubrat might have acquired the two vessels from the Avars to whom he was subjugated in the beginning of his rule.

The two groups of objects, probably Byzantine make, resem- ble those found in Avar burials on the territory of Hungary. They differ in that they have parallels in different .\var sites. The harness set (Cat. Nos 85-87) belongs to one set; asword with a round tip ((Cat. No 79), two belt ends, a rhyton (Cat. No 80) and a girdle set with fake buckles (Cat. Nos 81-83) belong to another set. The two groups might have reached Kubrat straight from Byzantium and not through the Avars because the Hungarian finds are not very perfect in their make and have the sign of the cross which tallies with this ruler's reli- gion.

There are Byzantine coins in Pereshchepina treated by their owner not as insignia, received by a patrician from the emperor but as parts of decorations. The emperors' portraits have mounts for gems (Cat. No 88). These are coins of Hera- clius and his sons and of Constans II. Kubrat would hardly treat Heraclius' holy person in this way and receive a gift from Constans II. If we trust the chronicle of John of Nikiou, Kubrat was a follower of Martina, Heraclius' widow, and her sons, whereas Constans acted against them. It is probable therefore that someone who was not Kubrat was the last owner of the treasures discovered in Pereshchepina, who in

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one way or another had acquired part of his property.

The structural peculiarities of the mounts on the necklace allow association with a whole group of objects of barbarian origin (Cat. Nos 89-92) which can be considered a local acquisition for the treasure shortly after the flow of goods from Byzantium was discontinued.

There are two more groups of local objects differing in techniques. The one is related to the last stage of the complex (Cat. Nos 93, 101-106). This is explained by several observa- tions. It is certain that the numerous gold sheets 0.15 mm thick (Cat. No 107) were specially intended to coat a wooden sarcophagus similar to the one in the Avar burial in Kun- babony (Toth, 1972). A sheet of that thickness is nailed toa plate decorated with a strip with an elongated groove placed above it. It appears those are unused preparations to make objects from. The facing of the lateral projections of a sheath has such a strip too. The sheath is incomplete because it does not have a hole for a shoulder strap (Cat. Nos 104-106). The foot of a gold cup with glass imitations of emerald have such a strip too. In fact, the genuine emeralds which apparently served as a model, appear on the decorations (Cat. Nos 89-91) with such mounts, as on the necklace of Byzantine coins from the time of Heraclius and Constans IJ. And finally, an iron nail is hammered on the upper part of a rod (Cat. No 93). Its cross-section is identical to that of the nails hammered on the gold sheets on the sarcophagus. The rod's lower part is covered with a gold cylinder also with a strip, decorated with a longitudinal groove.

'he analogies so far were related to Byzantium, the Avars and some east European nomadic sites (Glodos, Voznesenka), whereas the details of the sheath have close parallels in Sog- diana (Samarkand, Pendjkent) and the cups (in one feature or another) — in the vast territory between the Danube and Hwang Ho. From the latter half of the 6th and in the 7th cen- tury the steppe cultures of Eurasia and Central Asia were closely intertwined. In that period Turkic power spread from the Sea of Azov to the Great Chinese Wall and from the Sibe- rian forest-steppes to the mountains of Afghanistan. Sogdians who had come from the middle of Central Asia were hired by the nomad Turki to serve as diplomats, offi- cials and skilful masters. Some of the Pereshchepina objects mirror this Turkic-Sogdian "cultural symbiosis". Besides the details on the sheath, and to a smaller extent of the cups and cup-pitchers (Cat. Nos 95, 98), these were the covering of a

saddle and of a quiver tip (Cat. No 100). Those objects are stylistically related. They are technically different because they originate from different craft traditions. The quiver and the gilt wooden bow] have a complex history: they have come down to us repaired. The existence of such objects proves that not only the Byzantine-Bulgar but also the Turkic part of the treasure had been accumulated over a long time. The very existence of this group testifies to the political and cul- tural change in the steppes in the latter half of the 7th cen- tury when the Khazar state sprang on the ruins of the West- ern Turkic Khanate after defeating and partly driving away the Bulgars. Heraclius' afore-mentioned two gift medallions (629-632) and the decorations from Byzantine coins of 583-602, 603-607, 629-632 with mounts of a type different from that of the necklace are perhaps related to the destinies of the Turkic Khanate. The solidi of 622-632 are normal, not light, and are related to a later gift. The medallions are 2.5 times heavier than the ordinary solidi. Perhaps what we see are remains of a coins gift by a person superior to him who got the coins of 637-638 and 642-646. In 626-630 the khagan of the western Turki, a leader of a great state, was Heraclius' friend and ally in his struggle with Sassanid Iran. In 629-630 Heraclius wanted to marry him to his daughter Eudokia. The bridegroom suddenly died and the marriage did not take place though the bride was on her way to her new home.

Heraclius' gifts to the Turki can be associated with the mag- nificent Sassanid vessels (Cat. No 94). Byzantium suddenly seized one of the Sassanid kings' residences. The Sassanid gold vessels in Pereshchepina are much

heavier than the remaining gold objects. Kubrat could not get such precious gifts from the Iranian shahs because he did not have a border with them and at the same time Iran was engaged in a fero- cious struggle with the Arabs.

More probably Kubrat got the Turki's precious gifts in the hard time that set in for them when the khanate fell, after 630, but there are no facts to corroborate that. The craftsman who worked for the last owner in many respects carried on the Turkic-Sogdian traditions. Therefore, for the time being there are no indisputable data about the ethnic correlations of the Pereshchepina treasures.

It is certain, however, that the first owner of many objects of this treasure was khan Kubrat, the former vassal of the Avar khan, who concluded an alliance with emperor Herac-

lius and obviously befriended his widow Martina after his death. Later, when the Khazar Khanate was formed, headed by the ruling Turkic dynasty, Kubrat — or rather someone else — who adhered to the Turkic-Khazar and not the Avar cultural orientation, acquired the treasure. A representative of the Khazar ruling circles could be such a person.

The burial near the village of Romanovskaya on the Don con- taining late 7th century Byzantine coins is associated with the Khazar epoch. The style of ornaments and the shape of the clasps reveal its continuity from the Pereshchepina trea- sure, though essential differences should be noted. The sites of the 7th and 8th century containing Byzantine coins and gold objects of art are not numerous but they vividly charac- terize the period preceding the formation of the Saltov- Mayaki culture to which one of the next sections of the exhibition is devoted.

MALAYA PERESHCHEPINA, POLTAVA REGION

The Pereshchepina treasure was discovered accidentally on May 29, 1912, near Poltava, in the vicinity of the village of Malaya Pereshchepina, in the sandy locality, in the dunes on the left side of the river Vorskla, 4 or 5 versts from the bank. A village boy, son of the Cossack Fyodor Derkach, noticed a hollow in the sand and the hollow appeared to be the inside of a gold vessel. He and another boy called Derkach's mother to the spot. Next a policeman and a curator arrived. The ob- jects were taken to the village police-officer. A list of the ob- jects was made upon the arrival of Fyodorovski, the local chief constable. Then the objects were sent to the police headquarters in the town of Konstantinograd, then to Polta- va and the State Bank in St. Petersburg.

The circumstances of the discovery prevented the preserving of the objects and the scholarly interpretation of the site, which some authors consider as a treasure, a commemorative site and a burial.

References: Makarenko, 1912, pp. 207-211; Bobrinski, 1914, pp. 111-120, Orbeli, Trever, 1935, tables 36-38, 50, 60-63; Artamonov, 1962, pp. 174, 175; Marshak, Skalon, 1972, pp. 3-19; Ambroz, 1981, pp. 13, 18, 20, 21; Werner, 1984, pp. 5—45,tables 1-32.

70. A RING WITH A MONOGRAM

Gold.

Size: diameter of the ring 2.7 cm; diameter of the shield 1.6 cm.

Inv. No 1930/187.

A long narrow strip of gold, round in cross-section, with a flat round shield were cast and then polished. The shield is welded to the strip. The monogram is engraved.

Similar rings with an open-work monogram in the form of a cross are characteristic of the 7th century (Battke, 1963). The monogram of the ring's shield No 1939/1 is akin to the mono- gram of ring No 1053 (Cf. Cat. No 71), but not similar. A construction of IITKI — traditional and evidenced by sphra- gistic materials, a ligature standing for Matpikiog appears on the top of the right arm of the cross; if the combination AX is its top. A

construction of letters BTHO stands on the left arm of the cross; the left end of the cross of ring Now1053 terminates simply with a B. The ends of the vertical bar in both cases (Inv. No 1930/187 and Now1 058) are identical. The cross-shaped monogram of ring No 1930/187 could be discovered just on ring Now1053. But in such a case no ex- planation can be found for two circumstances: why did Ku- brat have two rings with absolutely the same title and why on ring Now1053 seven letters were enough to write his name XOBRAT and on ring No 1930/187 the T and O had to be doubled with a B to link them.

Of Kubrat's closest companions, his uncle, the chieftain of the Unogunduri, prince (Bat) Organa had a patrician title (Chichurov, pp. 153, 161 175). According to Nicephorus' Bre- viary in 619 Organa (Opyava) visited Constantinople with his retinue where they, Kubrat included, were converted to Christianity and Organa himself was presented gifts and

conferred the title patrician: Swpoic BaolAtkotc Kal AEiMUaol EdiAoTiunoato

™ yao agia TOU TIATPIKLOU

TOV NYENOVA TOUTOV

Our assumption is that the monogram on the ring (Inv. No 1930/187) could read BATOPXANOY IIATRIKIOY. In the sequence of letters there is no N, but there is a H which may be taken for a careless N for which the engraver did not put a slanted line. As to the title "bat", though Nicephorus does not ascribe the title to Organa, the examples with Ku- brat (KoBpat , KpoBat — Chichurov, pp. 112-113) and his eldest son Batbayan (BatBatav , Baiavoc

Chichurov, p. 113) show that Byzantine chroniclers called the Bulgar chieftains either by their proper name or fused it with the prefix "bat".

Bat Organa, the leader of the Bulgars under the First Turkic Khanate, regent of his minor nephew Kubrat, visited Cons- tantinople in 619, was made Byzantine patrician and recei- ved gifts (Artamonov, pp. 157-161); the gold ring is one of those gifts.

Unpublished. About rings of this type cf. Spieser, 1972.

71. RING

Gold. Size: diameter of the ring 2.6 cm; diameter of the shield 1.6 cm.

Inv. Now1053.

A long and narrow strip of gold with a round cross-section and a round shield with a monogram that forms a cross that may read Patrician Kubrat.

The strip and shield were cast and then polished. The shield is welded to the strip. The monogram is engraved.

Werner based his interpretation of the Pereshchepina site as the burial of khan Kubrat, Organa's nephew, whom emperor Heraclius generously rewarded and granted him the title pa- trician on deciphering the monogram of the published ring as Patrician Kubrat.

References: Beneshevich, 1913, pp. 115, 116, drawings 12, 13; Bo- brinski, 1914, p. 6, table XVI, drawings 60, 61; Bank, 1977, pp. 287, 288, table 96; Werner, 1984, pp. 31, 32, 44, table 32, 1-2; Popovic, 1986, pp. 103-133, drawing 55.

72. BIG BUCKLE Gold. Glass. 17.8 cm long; 5.7 cm wide. Inv. No 1930/92.

The base of the buckle is stamped, with partial engraving of each detail. The open-work decoration is formed by the me- tal's falling into the concave parts of the ornament. The base of the buckle is attached to the belt by five big loops, welded on the reverse of the plate. The buckle's ring and pin were cast and attached to the base; the mounts for red and blue paste sets were hollowed and partially engraved, the projec- ting edges and the ends of the hollows were polished.

The buckle has a figural shield formed where the circle and the trapezium join with convex small side whose ends stop where a circle joins the volute-like projections. The orna-

ments are characteristic monuments of the Great Migration of Peoples (Ross, 1961, pp. 88-89) but the structure of their open-work decoration is akin to some works from Constanti- nople, e.g., the pectoral coin featuring "The Miracle at Cana" (Wietzmann, 1979, pp. 319-321, No 296). The buckle belongs to a patrician girdle that emperor Heraclius presented to the khan of Great Bulgaria Kubrat (Werner, 1984, pp. 40-42). According to them Monemvasian Chronicle, in the 7th centu- ry the "Bulgarian buckles" were very fashionable (Setton, 1950, p. 527).

References: Bobrinski, p. 6, table XVI, drawing 56; Matzulewitsh, 1927, pp. 127-129, table VIII, 1-3; Ambroz, 1971, p. 119, drawings 7,1; Marshak-Skalon, 1972, pp. 7-10; Werner, 1974, p. 123, drawing 14a; Aibabin, 1982, p. 191, drawings 1,7; Werner, 1984, pp. 21-24, table XVI, drawing 56; Popovic, 1986, pp. 103-133, drawing 4.

73. BELT END Gold. Glass. 13.5 cm long; 5.5 cm wide. Inv. No 1930/91.

A decoration for a belt end consisting of welded leaves, each with stamped ornamentation; on the obverse — network, lea- ves and pearls; on the reverse — stylized palmettes.

The palmettes have petals of the Syracuse type, akin to the decorations on the Constantinople belt (Ross, Vol. II, pp. 41-42, tables XXXIV-D) and to the 7th century gold cross from Trosino fortress (Werner, 1974, p. 123, drawing 14a). The belt end belongs to the set from which buckle 72 comes.

Reference: See under No 72.

74. LADLE, 582-602 AD

Silver. Gilted. Size: 7.25 cm high; diameter 25.2 cm; length of the handle 38.5 cm.

Inv. Now825.

The ladle is part of a hand-washing vessel. Decorated with a rosette in a medallion of ivy and shells placed in the spoon - shaped hollows. Five stamps on the reverse: four on the bot- tom and one on the handle, plus a Greek inscription meaning a hand-washing vessel.

The ornament is a stamped relief on the reverse; some details are finished by engraving.

Silver ladle and pitcher (cf. Cat. No 75) comprise the hand-

washing vessel which presumably was one of the Byzantine gifts in 619 for prince Organa, Kubrat's uncle and chieftain of the Unogunduri (Matzulewitsch, 1929, pp. 80-83). References: Beneshevich, 1913, pp. 104-105, drawings 3,4; Bo- brinski, 1914, Part 2, drawing 2a, b; Matzulewitsch, 1929, pp. 7, 80— 83, table 17, drawings 1-14; Dodd, 1961, pp. 118-119, table 30; Bank, 1977, p. 281, tables 64-65; Catalogue, 1977, Vol. I, No 140; Marshak-Skalon, 1972, p. 4; Nuber, 1972, pp. 7-232; Effenberger, 1979, pp. 107-110, drawings 22-25, table 9; Werner, 1984, p. 11, ta- ble 2a, d; Mandel Mango, 1986, pp. 254-255.

75. PITCHER, 582-602 AD Silver. Gilted. Size: 28 em high; diameter of the foot 9.6 cm. Inv. Now826.

The pitcher has an octahedral body and foot resembling an eight-pointed star. The panther on the handle is between acanthus leaves; there is a mask under the handle; the rim is formed by two dolphins. The bottom bears five stamps.

The handle was cast separately and welded to the rim and the body. The mask at the end of the handle, the dolphins around the rim, the panther and the floral motif are a combi- nation of relief stamping and removal of backrground and an engraver's chisel has touched the details.

The silver pitcher and ladle (cf. Cat. No 74) comprise a hand- washing vessel which presumably was one of the Byzantine gifts in 619 for prince Organa, Kubrat's uncle and chieftain of the Unogunduri.

References: Beneshevich, 1913, pp. 104-105; Bobrinski, 1914, p. 2, drawing 6a, Matzulewitsch, 1929, pp. 6, 82-85, drawings 15-17, ta- ble 18; Dodd, 1961, pp. 120-121, table 31; Bank, 1977, p. 281, tables 62-63: Marshak-Skalon, 1972, p. 5; Effenberger, 1979, pp. 111-113, drawings 28-29, table 10; Werner, 1984, p. 11, table 4a, b.

76. A DISH WITH A CROSS, 629/630-641 AD Silver. Niello. Size: diameter 30.9 cm. Inv. Now824.

A four-pointed cross in a wreath of ivy leaves occupies the centre of a dish. The surface is given to embossed ornamenta- tion branching off from the medallion. Stamps on the bot- tom.

Wrought and incised metal; the cross and ivy leaves wreath are made of niello inlaid on a specially prepared ground.

J. Werner believes that the dish was one of the gifts of empe- ror Heraclius.

References: Beneshevich, 1913, pp. 102-104, drawing 2; Bobrinski, 1914, p. 2, table 3, drawings a-b; Bank, 1977, p. 282, table 69; Effen- berger, 1979, pp. 125-127, table 16, drawings 34-36, Werner, pp. 10-11, table 3a-b.

77. AMPHORA, 6th CENTURY

Silver, gilted. Size: 48.5 cm high; diameter of the rim 12.1 cm; diameter of the body 28.5 cm; diameter of the bot- tom 12.7 cm.

Inv. Now828.

The body consisting of several parts linked up by correspon- ding circles is decorated with three chased friezes; a “hima- tion” — type ornament under the rim; acanthus curves in the middle with rosettes, bowls of fruit and masks in-between them; acanthus stalks down. The amphora’s handles are sty- lized dolphin figures. A stamp and weight mark on the bot- tom.

The mouth, rim and handles of the amphora were cast; the two semi-conical parts of the amphora and the second deco- rative register have traces of rough treatment of the surface with a scratching instrument, moving lengthwise, i.e. they were mechanically made, not cast. The gilt is a thick layer of amalgama with subsequent removal of unnecessary mercury. The gilt hides seams formed when the amphora’s parts were welded and makes the hallmarks and the weight mark on the bottom of the vessel barely visible.

The gilting of the amphora and dish of bishop Paterna of Tomis (cf. Cat. No 78) is similar. This suggests that the am- phora, as it is today, was made in the same centre where the finishing touches on the dish were put.

References: Beneshevich, 1913, pp. 101-102, drawing 1; Bobrinski, 1914, p. 3, table VIII, drawing 17 a, b; Matzulewitsch, 1929, p. 7, 107-109, table 28, drawings 23-24; Dodd, 1961, p. 225, table 79 a, b; Bank, 1977,p. 282, table 70; Catalogue, 1977, Vol. I, pp. 102, 104, No 139; Effenberger, 1979, pp. 164-165, drawing 85, table 15; Werner, 1984, p. 10, table 8, drawing 17 a, b.

78. PATERNA'S DISH, 491-518 AD

Silver. Gold. Gilted. Glass of natural origin. Size: diameter 61 cm; height of the foot 1.8 cm; diameter of the bottom 31.8 cm.

Inv. Now827.

A chrysma with A and oa is laid on the bottom, around an in- scription in Latin: “Recreated from the ancient by our vener- able bishop Paterna.” Nine scenes are depicted along the rim of the dish, in the twinings of a vine: doves around a basket; lambs in a vine; peacocks around an amphora; peacocks pecking grapes; doves pecking grapes; kids around an am- phora; doves around an amphora; ducks around a basket; deer drinking from an amphora. Four oval gold medallions and two medallions with crosses are welded to the rim. Stamps and a weight mark on the bottom.

The decoration along the rim is embossed from the inside: some details on the faceside, the circular inscription on the bottom, the alpha and omega are engraved. The mounts for gems are attached by silver nails whose flattened heads can be seen on the mounts and whose points can be seen on the reverse side of the dish. Strips of fake pearls surround the mounts outside. The gilting was laid as an amalgama and the unnecessary mercury was subsequently removed.

References: Beneshevich, 1913, pp. 108-113, drawings 6-11; Farma- kovski, 1913, pp. 117-127; Bobrinski, 1914, pp. 1-2, table 1, dra- wings a-d; Matzulewitsch, 1929, pp. 5, 101-107, tables 26-27, dra- wings 21-22; Dodd, 1961, pp. 54-55, table 1; Bank, 1977, p. 281, ta- bles 66-68; Catalogue, 1977, Vol. I, No 142; Marshak ~ Skalon, 1972, p. 3; Effenberger, 1979, pp. 138-141, drawings 46-50; Werner, 1984, pp. 10-11, table 1; Mandel Mango, p. 248.

79. SWORD IN A SHEATH

Iron. Gold. Glass. Total length in the sheath 94.2 cm. Length of the handle 17.9 cm.

Inv. No 1930/1, 135, 136.

One-edged blade and two-edged point. The handle and sheath have nooses for hanging and are faced with wrought plates of gold which are decorated with figures of beads wel- ded at the base and relief glass gems, probably rolled along the end. The rounded ribbed mounts of the nooses for the strap contain spherical glass gems.

The sword handle’s upper part ends like a ring; the crossing

has flat and short ends. The nooses have three parts. Swords of this type have been known from rich Avar burials in the 7th century. Letters of the Greek alphabet have been scrat- ched on the five braces on the back side of the sword’s handle (Lvova, Semyonov, 1985, p. 79, drawings 2,3; Laszlo, 1955, fig. 83).

The sword is one of the gold objects comprising Heraclius’ presumable diplomatic gift to the chieftain of the Hunogun- duri, the former subject of the Avars and Organa’s nephew, the Christian Kubrat (who is conventionally identified with the khan of Great Bulgaria Kubrat). The gift included a gir- dle belt on which a sword hung and a girdle set with fake buckles and a rhyton (cf. Cat. Nos 80-83).

References: Bobrinski, 1914, table XII, drawing 40, table XIII, dra- wing 41a, b, c; Marshak — Skalon, 1972, drawing on p. 6; Ballint, 1978, fig. 4, No 34; Ambroz, 1981, drawing 5, Nos 16, 21; Erdélyi, 1982, drawings 2-4and 12; Werner, 1984, drawing 9, table 12, No 40, table 13, No 41a, b, table 29, No 6,7.

80. RHYTON

Gold. Total length 29 cm.

Inv. No 1930/6.

Bipartite rhyton consisting of two elements welded in the knee. Decorated with welded strips with a relief ornament of one or several longitudinal grooves of hemispheres. The strips encircle the rhyton's mouth and lower part and are at some distance between the two ends.

The rhyton has parailels in the 7th century rich Avar burials on the territory of Hungary (Laszlo, 1955, table XLII; Toth, 1972, fig. 5) and in monuments from that epoch on the terri- tory of Transylvania (Camogel, 1905, III, table 310). Both the rhyton and the sword (No 79) are decorated with longitudi- nal grooved strips made by the same instrument, hence the assumption that they might have been made simultaneously in the same centre (Cat. No 79).

References: Bobrinski, 1914, table X, drawing 28; Laszlo, 1955, table XVIII, fig. 83; Marshak — Skalon, 1972, drawing on p. 6; Ambroz, 1981, drawing 4a, No 10; Erdelyi, 1982, drawings 2, 7; Werner, 1984, table 10, No 28.

81. FAKE BUCKLES WITH GLASS GEMS, DETAILS OF A GIRDLE (four)

Gold. Glass. Size: 5.2 x 3 cm.

Inv. No 1930/36, 37, 41, 45.

Each buckle consists of a cast fake frame and a ring on a pla-

te shield coupled to it. The fake frame has two protruding se- micircles with spherical glass gems inside and a rectangular mount. The shield is decorated with a flat glass gem framed by small fake pearls. Big beads run along the edge of the shield; below — circles with a zigzag ornament. Three nooses to hang the belt on the reverse.

The fake buckles (11 in number) are parts of the rich girdle set including 21 items; in addition there are two wedges, five girdle buckles and three belt ends (Cat. Nos 82, 83).

Such girdle sets with fake buckles have parallels in 7th cen- tury rich Avar burials on the territory of Hungary (Laszlo, 1955, table III, No 1-6, tables XXXV and XXXII, No 1-6; Matzulewitsch, 1927, table IX, No 12 and 15; Toth, 1972, fig. 4, No 3).

Some features in common: identical structure of the objects mentioned in Cat. Nos 82, 83 and of the ends of the crossing of sword whose upper part is shaped like a ring (cf. Cat. No 79), and also two types of glass gems that decorate the fa- cing of the sword and the parts of the girdle set and their identical size and shape, plus the small fake beads with a transverse edge suggest that the sword and the set with the fake buckles could have been made simultaneously and in the same centre (Cat. No 79).

References: Bobrinski, 1914, table X, drawing 29; Matzulewitsch, 1927, table IX, No 10; Fettich, 1937, table CXIX, No 6; Laszlo, 1955, fig. 83; Artamonov, 1962, drawing on p. 240; Marschak — Skalon, 1972, drawing on p. 6; Ambroz, 1981, drawings 6, 42; Erdelyi, 1982, drawing 10; Werner, 1984, table 10, No 29.

82, 83. BELT ENDS WITH GLASS GEMS

Gold. Class. Size 11.7 x 3.6 cm and 2.7 x 2.4 cm; thickness 1 and 1.1 cm.

Inv. No 1930/87, 88.

The ends are welded from two plates and the circle that couples them. The front side is framed by big hollow beads and a strip of small fake beads. The rest of the surface is given to a scaly ornament of ribs. There are flat glass gems in the mounts that they form.

The ends are part of the girdle set (cf. Cat. No 81). References: Bobrinski, 1914, table XIV, drawing 46; Werner, 1984, tables 14, 16, tables 29, 5.

84, 85. HEMISPHERICAL BUCKLES OF HORSE-TRAP- PINGS

Gold. Traces of bronze. Glass. Paste. Diameter 3.2 cm; 1.3 cm high.

Inv. No 1930/139, 140.

Hollow two-layered base (originally the outer layer of gold had a bronze pad) decorated laterally with a relief ornament. The upper part is covered with an ornament of ribs, glass gems set on paste and beads.

There are four buckles of this type in Pereshchepina. The listed peculiarities in design and technique attribute them to rich horse decoration, which also includes other types of buckles (Cat. No 86), ends of stirrups and saddle girth and decorative belt ends (Cat. No 87). Over 200 gold details deco- rated the harness.

The surviving piece of a belt with braces of buckles and stamps of figural buckles and buckles of this type (cf. Cat. No 86) permits the reconstruction of their position on the harness. The buckles formed two rows on the belt in a recur- rent pattern: a round buckle between two semicircular pro- jecting figural buckles facing it. The triple layer on the belt around one of the round buckles makes it possible to attach

to this composition the decorative belt pendant (Cat. No 87). The richness of the horse's harness and the cross signs on two

surviving end-pieces suggest that it had belonged to the horse of a Christian — Kubrat.

Reference: Artamcnov, 1962, drawing on p. 240.

86. FIGURAL BUCKLES FROM A HORSE'S HARNESS (four)

Gold. Traces of bronze. Glass. Paste. 3.8 cm long; 3.1 cm wide; 2.5 cm high.

Inv. No 1930/1438 (4).

Hollow two-layered base (originally the outer layer of gold had a bronze pad) decorated laterally with a relief ornament. The upper part is covered with an ornament of ribs, glass gems set on paste and beads. On the reverse there are pieces of braces to attach the buckles to the belt.

The buckles decorated a rich harness (Cat. Nos 84, 85, 87). References: Bobrinski, 1914, table XIV, drawings 52 and 55; Ar- tamonov, 1962, drawing on p. 240; Erdelyi, 1982, drawings II, V 3, V 4, Werner, 1984, table XVI, Nos 52, 55.

87. GIRTH END OF A HORSE'S HARNESS Gold. Glass. Paste. Max length 6 cm; 4 cm wide; 2.2 cm high. Inv. No 1930/146.

The hollow base consists of a hemispheric and a trapezium- shaped part. The latter has an opening for the girth.

The lateral part is ornamented with a relief; the upper part with a set of ribs that have glass gems and beads fixed on paste.

The girth end decorated a rich harness (cf. Cat. Nos 84-86). References: Bobrinski, 1914, table XVI, No 54; Artamonov, 1962, drawing on p.240; Ambroz, 1981, drawing 4a No 16; Erdelyi, 1982, drawing 11; Werner, 1984, table XVI, No 54.

88. FRAGMENT OF A NECKLACE OF FIVE GOLD BYZANTINE COINS WITH WELDED MOUNTS FOR GEMS.

Gold. Diameter of the coins 1.90—1.95 cm. The mounts are between 0.4 and 0.5 cm high.

Inv. No 1930/24.

Light solidi, up to 20 siliquae. Two coins were minted of Heraclius with his sons (Heraclius, Constantine and Harac- leon) in 637-638 AD; and three of Constans II in 642-646 AD. The necklace imitates Byzantine models (Werner, 1984, pp. 17, 18) but was made in a barbarian nomadic milieu: the mounts for gems have been welded to a depiction of the Em- peror's holy person (Marshak, Skalon, 1972, p. 6). In the Pereshchepina site the necklace is part of a group including a sword, gold appliques, buckles, rings, an earring, spoon, a pair decoration of a dress, other decorations with emeralds (cf. Cat. Nos 89-92). Neither the technique nor the style of this group can be related either to the Byzantine or to the Turkic or Iranian milieu. At the same time certain techniques used in the decoration of the objects comprising the group — gold inlay on iron, special construction for round mounts for gems — are observed on objects from rich nomadic sites in Eastern Europe: Glodos (Smilenko, 1965, drawings 9, 11, 13, table I, II, No 2, III, Nos Ia, b, c, IV, Nos 4, 5, VI No 2) and Voznesenka (Grinchenko, 1950, table VI, No 9; Semyonov, 1988, drawing 5, Nos 1-7).

References: Bobrinski, 1914, table XII; Bauer, 1931, p. 227; Kropot- kin, 1962, p. 36, No 250, table 15; Marshak, Skalon, 1972, p. 6; Erdelyi, 1982, drawing II; Ballint, 1982, p. 144, No 54b; Werner, 1984, table 18, Nos 4, 5, 7-10, 14-25.

89, 90. BRACELETS WITH GEMS (two)

Gold. Emerald. No 1930/8 — shield — 3.10 x 3.75 cm; diameter of the ring 7.40—7.90 cm; width of the ring 2.40 cm.

No 1930/9 — 3.00 x 3.10 cm; 6.10—8.20 cm; 2.35 cm.

Inv. No 1930/8, 9.

The bracelets consist of flat rectangular shields, hollow in- side and welded from several wrought plates and a broad plated ring decorated with high round mounts for gems (which have perished). There is an emerald gem framed by fake beads in the middle of the shield. The ring has slim welded strips on its borders.

The bracelets are included in the group of objects from the Pereshchepina site which might be considered works of local barbarian craftsmen (cf. Cat. Nos 88, 91, 92). Such works, like the necklace from Byzantine coins included in this group, the mounts for gems and the identical technique of setting the gems in them by bending the edges of the mounts with the point of an instrument, give grounds for the as- sumption that both the necklace from coins and the bracelets were made simultaneously, i.e. not earlier than 642 AD (cf. Cat. No 88).

References: Bobrinski, 1914, table XI, drawings 32, 33, Marshak Skalon, 1972, drawing on p. 7; Ambroz, 1981, pp. 48, 49 — colour table; Erdelyi, 1982, drawing 11; Werner, 1984, table II, No 32, 33, table 23, Nos 1, 2.

91. NECK RING

Gold. Emerald. Outer diameter of the ring 21.2—17.5 cm; size of the shield 1.80 x 3.55 x 0.40 cm.

Inv. No 1930/15.

The ring consists of a flat rectangular shield inside, welded from hammered out plates and a twisted ring. The ring (around the shield) and the shield itself are decorated with emerald gems; the shield is framed by fake beads.

The ring is included in the group of objects from the Pereshchepina collection that might be considered works of local barbarian craftsmen (cf. Cat. Nos 88—90, 92). Made not earlier than 642 AD (cf. Cat. No 88).

References: Bobrinski, 1914, table XI; No 36; Erdelyi, 1982, dra- wing 11; Werner, 1984, table II, No 36.

92. APPLIQUE ON A DRESS Gold. Emerald. Size 2.1 x 2.8 em. Inv. No 1930/63.

The base is a flat rectangular plate decorated on the outside with a rectangular emerald gem, bordered with circles and beads. The brace to clasp the dress is on the back.

The applique is included in the group of objects from the Pereshchepina collection that might be considered works of local barbarian craftsmen (cf. Cat. No 88).

References: Bobrinski, 1914, table XII, drawing 40; Werner, 1984, ta- bles 12, 40.

93. PLATING OF A CROZIER

Gold. The total length of the plating giving an idea of the size of the crozier — 151.80 cm.

Inv. Nos 1930/120, 121, 129 (tripartite object); 130, 131 (two objects).

The plating was collected from broken parts and recon- structed by A. I. Semyonov.

The eight-part plating from wrought gold plates is done using a modern technique. The plating consists of a socket and a lower part for holding it (Inv. Nos 1930/120, 121), five- part plating of the staff (Inv. Nos 1930/129-131) and a short cylinder at the end of the staff (Inv. No 1930/131).

The end of the crozier's wooden part and some other objects of the collection — buckle, belt end, a gold cup set with green glass and gold details to plate weapons (Cat. Nos 104-106) bind in one group ornamented surfaces made by one and the same instrument.

A strip decorates an object whose function is not clear. A brittle, slim part of the same thickness was used to make it, just as for the supposed platings of the burial device (they are only 0.15 mm thick: cf. Cat. No 107). Besides, both the gilted handle and the gold plates of this device are attached to the wooden base with identical iron nails with a tetrahedral leg. All those observations date the crozier to the last period of the accumulation of the treasure, just before the owner’s bu- rial.

References: Bobrinski, 1914, table XV, No 49; Marshak, Skalon, 1972, drawing on p. 6; Erdelyi, 1982, drawings 10, 11; Werner, 1984, table XV, No 49.

94. PITCHER Gold. 36 cm high. Inv. No Z524.

The pitcher is on a high foot, with a loop-shaped handle, al- mond-shaped mouth and a lid. The pitcher has a specific shape and it was made in Sassanid Iran. This shape was later widespread in Tokharistan (the basin of the Amu Darya in its middle reaches). At first glance the pitcher resembles Roman vessels, but the Sassanid pitchers have substantial differ- ences. The upper part of the handle does not touch the mouth and descends towards a support. The two ends of the handle usually end with sculpted animal heads. In this case these are heads of wild donkeys (onagri). In the epic tradition Rustam was hunting wild donkeys. Silver vessels of the 4th—6th century feature hunting scenes of a Sassanid king with those animals. This pitcher is the only gold vessel with such a shape. Its size and solidity suggest that it was an item of the royal treasures of Iran and was acquired thenomads ca. 628 AD after the Byzantine emperor Heraclius plundered one of the Sassanids’ residences. The western Turki from whose state the Khazar Khanate detached itself later were Byzan- tium’s steppe allies at that time. The pitcher is dated between the 5th and the first quarter of the 7th century.

The pitcher has been lathed and polished. The foot, the handle and spheric protrusion next to the handle are welded. References: Bobrinski, 1914, p. 114, drawing 21; Orbeli, Trever, 1935, table 61. Marshak, Skalon, 1972, pp. 12-13; Lukonin, 1977, p. als

95. CUP-PITCHER Gold. 19.7 cm high. Inv. No Z526.

A vessel with a pear-shaped body, broad mouth and ring- shaped handle, similar in shape to the other such vessels from Pereshchepina: silver, with gold facing on the wooden base (Cat. No 98). The foot under the bottom is in open-work pattern consisting of rows of circles cut from metal strips. The pad under the handle is shaped like a trefoil; a palmette has been cast on the top of the handle. The handle itself is of Turkic type, like a segment of pellets. The handle's decora- tions have parallels in Sogdian, Chinese (Tang period, 7th—9th century) and Kirghis (8th-10th century) metallic vessels. Date: 7th century.

The vessel was wrought, with vertical strips made by a polish- ing instrument. The details are welded. The handle is hol- low. The vessel is welded from two halves with a vertical seam between them. The walls of the foot are shaped of strips with joining and overlapping ends.

References: Bobrinski, 1914, tableIX, 20; Orbeli, Trever, 1935, table 62; Werner, 1984, p. 12, tables 9,20.

96. BOWL Gold. 10.3 cm high. Inv. No Z536.

The reservoir is bell-shaped. The ends are smooth, the or- namentation on the reservoir's lower end consists of four palmettes alternating with boughs that have a heart-shaped bud on top. The foot is conical. There is a rattle between the foot and reservoir.

The bowl consists of welded parts. The ornament is produced by a relief stamp on the face. The smooth ends have narrow vertical traces of polishing.

References: Bobrinski, 1914, p. 114, drawing 23; Orbeli, Trever, 1935, table 60; Marshak, Skalon, 1972, pp. 12, 14; Werner, 1984, pp. 13, 14, 29-31, drawing 7, tables 22,3.

97. BOWL Gold. 10.4 cm high. Inv. No Z534.

For description and references see Cat. No 96.

98. CUP Gold. Wood (not preserved). 9.2 cm high. Inv. No 1930/5, 107.

The pear-shape, the broad mouth and the handle resembling a segment of spheric protrusions correlate the vessel to the purely metallic cup-pitchers of the Pereshchepina collection (cf. Cat. No 95), which in turn resemble the Turkic wooden and silver vessels in Siberia. The gold plating consists of: four plates for the body, mouth, bottom and a quadrangular pad for a handle attached to the plates. The plates have stylized floral motifs. Three out of the four plates were up- turned, because the craftsman who did the plating could not grasp the decoration. Only the bush in the mountain is prop-

erly situated. The upper part of the bush is in flames. The iconography is unique. Perhaps this features the biblical ex- pression of "the bush burned with fire and not consumed" from which God speaks with Moses (Exodus, 3, 2-4). The only parallel of this symbol is the plating of a dagger handle from Voznesenka. The symbolism is connected with the spread of dogmatic religions among the nomads: Judaism or, less probably, Christianity. Later Judaism became the relig- ion of the aristocracy in the Khazar Khanate.

The fine gold sheets are nailed to each other and to a wooden base. The lateral sheets have a two-plane relief. The handle is cast. The plating sheets have been mounted twice; the second time, on another wooden base, apparently when the original cup was damaged.

References: Bobrinski, 1914, drawing 49; Marshak, Skalon, 1972, pp. 12,5, cover; Werner, 1984, pp. 12, 13, drawing 7, tables 21,4.

99. BUCKLE Gold. 9.5 x 4.2 cm. Inv. No 1930/93.

The girdle buckle consists of a lyre-shaped frame to pass the belt through, a tongue with a mount for a gem, a plate shield like a heraldic shield with a pointed end. The plate forming the shield passes through a frame with a tongue already at- tached to it and its ends are one over the other and nailed. In this way the belt is pressed

between the two parts of the shield: the front and the rear. A transverse strip is addition- ally attached by two nails to the back wall of the shield, near the frame. The three nails on the front side have round heads and their ends are flattened. The ornament on the obverse side of the shield is embossed and applique. There is a smooth edge along the end and a strip of separately welded slightly concave circles along the axis. The field is given to four half-palmettes whose line is very Sogdian. This does not mean that the buckle was made by a Sogdian, because they are cast. The moulds might have been Sogdian, but the buck- le was mounted by barbarian craftsmen and in many re- spects it is similar to the other Pereshchepina buckles.

All ornamental details are welded to the base.

References: Bobrinski, 1914, p.116, No 42, table XVI, drawing 57; Marshak, 1971, pp. 52, 53.

100. PLATING OF A QUIVER TIP

Gold. 16.7 x 20 cm.

Inv. No 1930/95, 115.

Gold platings have survived of a quiver which becomes

broader downwards, in which the arrows were put with the arrowheads up, typical of the period of the Migration of Peoples. The end of the quiver was higher than the ar- rowheads. To take them out easily, an opening was cut in front, covered with a special flap. The frame of strips from the quiver's upper end, the end of the opening and the upper part of the flap have been preserved. The end of the opening was also decorated with relief plates, slightly bent to the frame. Those plates might have been taken from another quiver and adjusted to the quiver in question. Avar quivers have no plates; their frame resembles that of Pereshchepina, but the decoration is more intricate. Like the wooden cup with gold stamped plates for plating, the plates of the quiver were apparently not made for the last owner of the treasure before the burial. The ornaments of the stamped plates origi- nate from the Sogdian torn palmettes, but strongly modified in the steppes.

The frame consists of rolled strips; the ornament of the plates is stamped; gold nails are used.

References: Bobrinski, 1914, table XIV, drawing 44. Laszlo, 1955, p. 282, drawing 86; Marshak-Skalon, 1972, p. 17; Werner, 1984, p. 28, drawing 5, table 30.

101. DETAILS OF A SWORD SHEATH Gold. 8 and 9 cm long. Inv. No 1930/66a, b.

A pair of P-shaped appliques on the projections formed by the ends of the straps holding the sheath. Nooses were at- tached to the projections of the ringed straps through which the straps on which the sword sheath hangs passed. The applique consists of an ornamented front and smooth back plate, and of a smooth coupling plate touching to form a right angle. The ornament on the solid front part consists of longitudinal grooves divided by edges. High relief. The ends in the hollows and above meet to bend in a triple curve and relieve strain. This is characteristic of the Sogdian style. The pairs of P-shaped appliques for the sheath were first ob- served on Chinese reliefs of the third quarter of the 6th cen- tury, featuring Sogdians. In the 7th century they appeared on a vast territory — as far as Hungary in the west, Japan in the east and Iran in the south.

The plates have welded ends; the ornament is engraved; they were attached to the belt by gold nails with a loop at the ends.

Reference: Bobrinski, 1914, table XII, drawing 40, upper line.

102, 103. DETAILS OF A DAGGER SHEATH Gold. 5.1 cm long; 0.8 cm high. Inv. Nos 1930/67, 1930/68.

They differ from Cat. No 101 only in size.

104. DETAIL OF A SWORD SHEATH Gold. 3.9 cm long; 1.5 em high. Inv. No 1930/69.

B-shaped applique, similar in technique, ornamentation and function to the paired appliques (Cat. Nos 101-103). The back plate is solid, no opening for a noose to be strapped toa belt. Hence the assumption that this was the end of the sheath. However, all sheath ends familiar to us have a diffe- rent structure, and the B-shaped appliques on the projec- tions for the straps of swords and daggers are well known from frescoes in Sogdiana (Afrasiab, 7th century; Pendjkent, first half of the 8th century). Late Sassanid appliques with a solid back had an opening for the strap loops drilled into the ready object, not caring about the ornamentation. Probably the loop was adapted when the sword, dagger and the girdle with the strap were completely finished. In such a case the detail on the sheath is related to a sword that no one hung on the waist, and that was made shortly before the burial by a craftsman working for the last owner of the treasure.

Unlike Cat. Nos 101-103, the back is covered by strips of gold with a longitudinal groove.

References: Bobrinski, 1914, drawing 40; Werner, 1984, table XII.

105. DETAIL OF A DAGGER SHEATH Gold. 3.4 cm long; 1.1 cm high. Inv. No 1930/70.

The B-shaped applique corresponds almost entirely to Cat. No 104. But an extra decoration — a mount for a cabochon gem — has survived. The mount is laid on a nail the end of which goes through the back plate. The mount bor- dered by small circles covering the whole plate.

106. DETAIL OF A DAGGER SHEATH Gold. 2.6 cm long; 1 cm high. Inv. No 1930/71.

It corresponds entirely to the description under Cat.No 105, except for the size.

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107. FRAGMENTS OF A PLATING OF BURIAL DEVICE (three)

Gold. Iron. Size: 6.6 x 7.1 cm; 7.0 x 7.1 cm; 7.0 x 7.2 cm. Inv.No 1930/133 (3).

Quadrangular wrought plates with end-to-end openings in the corners and preserved pieces of iron nails in them.

The collection contains 230 whole plates and many frag- ments. The solidity of the nails preserved in the corners of the plates rule out the possibility of treating the plates as de- corations of a tent, sack or covering (Bobrinski, 1914, p.115, No 39) and tallies with Werner who considers them the fac- ing of a wooden sarcophagus (Werner, 1984, p.9, table 15, No 51), remains of which are possibly mentioned by I. E. Makarenko in his description of the excavations of the Pereshchepina find (Makarenko, 1912, pp. 208,210). This is corroborated by the exceptional brittleness of most plates (0.15 mm) which makes highly improbable their use for domestic purposes. Just a few are 0.20 mm thick and could have been originally used to fix a tent or throne.

Only the discovery of such sarcophagi in rich Avar graves could be an argument in favour of treating the Pereshche- pina remains of a gold-plated wooden device as a sarco- phagus of the former Avar subject khan Kubrat. For the time being, however, several quadrangular gilted silver plates have been discovered only in the burial in Kunbabony (Toth, 1972) jp: 152 ££):

References: Makarenko, 1912, pp. 208, 210; Bobrinski, 1914, table XV, drawings 49, 61; Laszlo, 1955, fig. 83, Ergelyi, 1982, drawing 10, X, Werner, 1984, table XV, Nos 49, 51.

VILLAGE OF ROMANOVSKAYA, ROSTOV REGION

In 1884 peasants building a mill on a mound came across an ancient burial on the left bank of the Don, south of the vil- lage of Romanovskaya. The head was oriented north-west; there was a pot of coal next to the head and a skull and horse bones at the feet. The funerary offerings were scattered in different museums: an agraffe of two plates with gems was acquired by the Hermitage; another agraffe by the State Museum of History in Moskow, together with a gold earring, a clasp, two gold platings and a solidus of Leo II (695-698 AD). The second coin from the set minted under Constantine Pogonatus (681-685 AD) was kept at the Don

Museum in Novocherkask. But its present whereabouts are unknown.

A tumular necropolis from the time of Khazars occupies the field where the burial was discovered in 1884.

Reference: Semyonov, 1985, pp.90-160.

108. AGRAFFE OF TWO QUADRANGULAR PLATES COUPLED BY A RING, LATE 7TH —- EARLY 8TH CEN- TURY

Gold. Sapphires. Size of each square: 7.2 x 7.2 cm.

Inv. No 2158/1.

It consists of two quadrangular plates coupled in the corners by rings. The plates are decorated with an ornament en- graved on the reverse. Four semicircular medallions feature peacocks on the one plate and peacocks and roosters on the other. The birds hold a bough which is a "torn palmette" in their beaks. All depictions are individual and not repeated in the details. There are four cross-shaped figures in the corners of the inner field, between the medallions. Strips of fake beads in the ends of the plates, in the space between them — eight rings which, judging from the agraffe kept in Moscow, held the string of beads. So the agraffe had a circle of beads. There is a big blue sapphire set in the middle of each plate: the one has an oval cabochon, the other — a tetrahedron.

The agraffe has parallels among the ancient Avar monu- ments, Dunapatai, Abony and Jule, and the style of the "torn palmettes" is comparable to the early example of Sogdian to- reutics, according to V.I.Marshak.

References: Ribakov, 1939; Semyonov, 1985, pp.90-100, drawing 3; Laszlo, 1974; Horvath, 1935; Marshak, 1971, p. 52.

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THE SLAVS ON THE LEFT BANK IN THE UKRAINE CENTURIES

Cat. Nos 109-152

Between the 8th and 10th century, the forests and forest steppe regions on the left bank of the Dnieper down its lower reaches and in the basins of the rivers Desna, Sejm, Sula, Pola and Vorskla, as well as along the upper course of the Severskiy Donets, were inhabited by the Slavic tribes of the Severyani. In archaeological writings their native culture is referred to as Romnian, from a fortress near the town of Romny on the Sula. The Romnian ruins are very similar to those of the Vyatichi people along the upper and middle course of the river Don, whose principal fortresses were lo- cated around the village of Borshevo; hence the term Rom- nian-Borshevian culture.

The Severyani lived in fortresses surrounded with moats and earth banks or atop of steep hills, using the landscape as a natural defence. The earth banks were further fortified with wooden piles and often reinforced with stone walls. Some- times they might live in unfortified settlements next to a for- tress. More often than not the Romnian settlements were ar- ranged in clusters of two to seven, not far apart.

Dwellings were not built according to plan. Typically a dwelling consisted of a rectangular dugout with a two- or three-sloped roof and walls built of wooden beams sup- ported by vertical poles. In some cases the earthen walls were reinforced with wattle and daube. All-wooden houses were rare. The clay oven was usually built in a corner with a hole

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for the smoke; it was of rectangular shape with an arched firedoor and a flat top for cooking the meals. The smoke usu- ally came out through a window. Right by the house there were "cellars", or storage pits in the

ground, often plastered with clay as well as overground farm buildings of work- shops.

The Severyani buried the ashes of their dead, together with a few personal belongings of the deceased, in clay urns on top of small (1.5—-3 m) earth mounds. Burials without tumuli or cremation in pits were also common (cf. Sedov, 1982, pp. 134-143; Sukhobokov, 1986, pp.201—212). Typical relics found at the Romnian fortresses included kitchen utensils or, less commonly, amphorae supposedly brought from the northern Black Sea coast or from around the Sea of Azov, as well as pottery, similar in appearance to that of the neighbouring Saltovo culture.

Most kitchen vessels (pots, bowls and pans) were hand-made, though crude potter's wheels were also used. Some pots were made in elegant shapes: often tall, cone-like, with large mouths and curved rims. The rim was usually decorated with jagged patterns, indents and hatches, and the rest of the pot — with horizontal or undulating lines. Shorter, wider pots with outturned mouth rims have also been found. A feature of the Romnian culture was the jagged decorative pattern stamped upon the body of a pot in a slanting or undulating

line, or with a piece or rope wound around a stick. Another type of pots were those with a straight rim, a steeply or ob- liquely slanting neck and a cone-shaped body. They were of generally better workmanship. Some were glazed, others de- corated with glazed strips, sometimes combined with an un- dulating, horizontal or zig-zagging patern. In shape these vessels resembled the pots of the older Volynka culture, to be described later.

The Romnians also made bowl-shaped vessels decorated with jagged patterns and ornaments; as well as pans with hatches and indents around the rim. Pots typical of the 11th-13th century Kievan Russia have also been found in some _ settlements (cf. Lyapushkin, 1958, pp.32—46; Sukhobokov, 1975, pp.57-80).

The Severyani were mostly land-tillers, as evidenced by the implements found in settlements: ploughshares, sickles, scythes and mattocks, all of perfect shape and workmanship. Excavations of storage pits have revealed charred grains of millet, rye, wheat and barley; in those times grain was ground in hand-driven grinders. They were also stock-breed- ers, as shown by the numerous bones of cattle, pigs, sheep and goats scattered around settlements. The fishing hooks, weights and nets, the fish and wild animal bones found at places testify to yet another livelihood: fishing and hunting. Some of the animals were used for food, the rest for their furs and hides. Various hand tools: axes, adzes and chisels, show that they were good carpenters, while remains of black-smith's furnaces, tools and metal ingots evidence their metal-working abilities. The Slavs practised hot and cold forging, welding, cementation and other thermal processing methods (cf. Sukhobokov, 1975, p. 3).

Like all Slavic tribes, the Romnians were good spinners: dis- taffs and spinning wheel weights have been found in almost every home. The latter were usually made of clay or pieces of broken amphorae, or Saltovo vessels, sometimes even chis- selled from slate.

The Romnian tribes widely used non-ferrous metals. Ar- chaelogists have discovered melting pots, moulds and cast- ings, as well as ruins of ancient workshops for thermal metal processing. Judging by the exquisite workmanship of jewels, the contemporary craftsmen had attained very high quality standards. Characteristic among Slavic jewellery were the so-called Severyanian spral-shaped pendants for wear on a woman's temples; besides them there were the fan-and

spade-shaped pendants worn by the Vyatichi and Radimichi tribes, different ring, bracelets and necklaces (cf. Lya - pushkin, 1958, pp. 219-221; Sukhobokov, 1975, pp. 87-130).

The jewels from the treasure found at the Novotroitskoye fortress demonstrate the Romnian style of ladies' jewellery and the cultural exchange with the neighbouring Saltovian tribes. One of the finds contained typically Saltovian ear- rings, belt tips and buckles. On the basis of the variety of coins and utensils, the treasures were dated towards late 9th century (cf. Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 182). Ties with the East are evidenced by the presence of Arab dirhams and coloured glass beads.

The Slavic nature of Romnian culture is beyond doubt, as further evidenced by 11th-13th century Severyanian chroni- cles. Yet its origin remains the cause of much scientific dis- pute (cf. Sedov, 1982, pp. 136, 137). One of

the early yet most authoritative explorers of Romnian monuments, I. I. Lyapushkin, backed by E. A. Goryunov and others, holds that the Slavs had come to the Left Bank from the western regions not earlier than the 8th century. P. N. Tretyakov, too, points to the foreign origin of Romnian culture, tracing it back to the Dnieper-Oka basin. Other scholars after D. T. Be- rezovsky tend to regard Romnian culture as deriving from the local Volynka culture. The two cultures are linked by an intermediate layer of monuments such as the Oposhnya set- tlement and the lower layer of the Novotroitskoye fortress (cf. Sukhobokov, 1975, pp.136-144,151; Sedov, 1982, p.137; Yurenko, 1983). The Romnian and Volynka monuments have elements common to both cultures: similar dwellings, half- buried in the ground, of predominantly wooden structure with supporting poles; with stone or clay ovens. Similarities are also noticed in the type of decorations in pottery, notably the corded-ware pattern. Certain differences, however, show that the two cultures are not identical (cf. Yurenko, 1983). The Volynka culture features unfortified settlements; the Romnian culture — fortresses; the storage pit was typically dug inside a Volynka house, but outside a Romnian one. There were differences in the burial rites, too: although in both cases the dead were cremated and their ashes put in urns, a Volynka grave was flat and a Romnian one, mound- shaped. But perhaps the most noticeable difference is in the quality of the pottery. The Volynka pots are glazed and richly decorated: jagged or comb-like lines, undulating or horizontal glazed strips, zig-zags or checkered patterns.

Such vessels — which make up a bare 10 per cent of all (cf. Yurenko, 1983), had no analogue in earlier Slavic monu- ments, unlike the bulk of hand-made pots which had their prototypes in the Penkovo or Koloch cultures of 5th-7th cen- tury (cf. Prikhodnyuk, 1980, pp. 113-126; Gorunov, 1981, pp. 85, 91). On the whole, the Volynka pottery very much resem- bled the glazed tableware of the Saltovo-Mayaki tribes. The Volynka culture has some other non-Slavic features: tent- shaped dwellings with fireplaces and burials in pits, not to mention some objects of clearly Saltovian origin. The closeness of the Volynka culture to the Alano-Bulgarian population is also evidenced by anthropological studies (Sedov, 1982, p. 138). Still, regardless of all differences, there is a marked continuity between the Volynka (mid-7th to mid-8th century) and the Romnian culture (late 8th — early 9th century). The main Romnian fortresses were active by late 10th, and some till early 11th century; there is material evidence of the transition towards ancient Russian culture; rare settlements remained alive till as late as the 13th cen- tury (cf. Sukhobokov, 1986, p.210).

Thus, the interaction between the early Slavic tribes and the Alano-Bulgarian and Saltovian population gave birth to the Severyani tribes (Sedov, 1982, pp. 136-138). And it is entirely possible that the closeness in sound between the names Seve- ryani-sever-Saviry-Sabiry is more than a phonetic similar- ity: it points towards a positive historical fact.

The Severyanian culture of the early Romnian period is amply demonstrated by what is shown at the exhibition of the Novotroitskoye fortress, an outstanding monument of that age.

NOVOTROITSKOYE FORTRESS NEAR LEBEDIN, SUMY REGION

The Novotroitskiye fortress is an outstanding monument of the Slavic tribe Severyani, exemplifying the Romnian culture The fortress stands on the right bank of the river Psyol in its middle course, near Novotroitskoye village, on a sloping cape, a naturally fortified spot well of the plateau.

The place has been explored on several occasions: in 1948, 1952 and 1954, all by the Dnieper left bank research unit of the Slavic Archaeological Expedition from the Institute of

History of Material Culture of the USSR Academy of Sci- ences, headed by Professor I. I. Lyapushkin. The fortress, which covers over 3,500 sq. m, is of paramount importance in studying the history of the Eastern Slavs, since it is among the very few fully excavated and thoroughly studied Slavic monuments (Lyapushkin, 1958). The excavations have yielded a splendid collection of Romnian finds: hundreds of whole or reconstructed pots,

thousands of fragments; more than 70 iron and about 80 bronze and silver objects (the silver ones are about 60); more than 100 bone implements, 55 clay distaffs and many other things.

I. I. Lyapushkin's expedition succeeded in recreating the ex- terior of that early Slav settlement, throwing ample light on the lifestyle of one of the Severyan tribes. The Novot- roitskoye settlement was estimated to have been the home of about 160 people or 27 contemporary families (Sykhobokov, 1975, p.100). More than 50 houses have so far been un- earthed, all buried 1-1.5 m deep in the ground, between 12 and 20 sq. m in size. In all probability they had three- sloped roofs made of timber beams, thatched or plastered with clay or earth. The walls were typically lined with wooden planks and plastered with clay; the smaller houses had plain earthen walls. The Romnian ovens were of the early semirounded shape, with open fireplaces next to some of them. Clay sofas provided a furniture of sorts. There were hundreds of auxiliary buildings: cellars, barns, animal cages, workshops. In the outskirts of a settlement were the blacksmith's shops with furnaces, charcoal floors and iron slag scattered all around. No blacksmith's tools have been found, though; perhaps the settlement fell prey to a raid and the attackers looted all implements of value (Lyapushkin, 1958, pp.219, 220 ff). The Novotroitskoye blacksmiths made all that was needed for tilling the land: ploughs, ploughshares, mattocks, sickles and scythes (Cat. Nos 139, 140, 148, 151).

Charred grains of wheat, rye, millet and barley have been found in barns.

The local people were also capable of making hand tools for carpentry: axes (Cat. No 152), adzes, chisels for making wooden spoons etc., as well as fishing and hunting tackle. Weapons (Cat. Nos 141-144) and household utensils have also been found. The settlement had its jewellers, as evi- denced by the bronze ingots, melting pots, stamps for belt bukcles, decorations and accessories. Among them were

silver temporal rings of the Radimichi type (Cat. No 138), and plain wire rings, mostly silver (Cat. No 137). Particularly interesting are the two treasures unearthed in the fortress. One consists of ladies' jewellery and decorations (Cat. Nos 115-124): a bronze bracelet bent in the middle and hooked through a silver five-pointed ring; a silver bracelet, a bronze ring and seven temporal rings. The other treasure (Cat. Nos 125-136), found in a small pot in the corner of a deserted house, is particularly valuable. It comprises ten Arab dirhams and fifteen silver objects, of which only one silver ring is in good condition, and all the rest — a bracelet, ear- rings, ear pendants, a small earring, buckles and a belt tip — are faulty or damaged. In all probability, they were intended to be used as raw material by a goldsmith. Moreover, in weight many of these objects matched the weight of the coins, thus enabling the customer to know the price of each item (Lyapushkin, 1958, pp. 26-30, 218, 219).

Excavation also revealed innumerable earthen vessels, evidencing the level of development of pottery. Pots were typically made by hand, sometimes finished on a primitive potter's wheel, particularly when the undulating or horizon- tal ornamentation was added. Practically everyone could make pots, as shown by the stocks of clay discovered in al- most every home (Lyapushkin, 1958, pp. 221, 321). Some of the pots are on display (Cat. Nos 110-114).

Trade with the Saltovian-Mayaki tribes explains the pre- sence of some typically Saltovian decorations, such as the pear-shaped ear pendant (Cat. No 136), or the bronze bell (Cat. No 109), etc., in the Novotroitskoye fortress. The oval amphorae came to Novotroitskoye as containers for wine or oil. It had most probably been the Saltovians who brought the Arab coins, although it is also possible that the Slav lands had been visited by Arab merchants (Lyapushkin, 1958, pp. 222, 223).

The period of the settlement's existence can be dated with great accuracy by the jewels and Oriental coins found there: it was founded in late 8th — early 9th century and became ex- tinct towards late 9th — early 10th century (Lyapushkin, 1958, pp. 186-192). The cause for its extinction has also been explained: a fire destroyed all homes and other buildings, as evidenced by the charred wooden structures, burnt clay floors and grain stocks, and human skeletons found in the houses.

The survivors left the settlement with some of their belong- ings, but could not take with them the treasures. The latter had probably been hidden from the raids of Pechenegs that had plundered many Slav fortresses and settlements.

109. BELL

Bronze. Diameter 4 cm.

Inv. No 75/3010.

Cast, large spherical, slightly oblong, with loop on top, a slit underneath, and a loose pellet inside, with ribbed surface. Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p.30, fig. 17:2.

110. DECORATED POT Clay. Height 12.7 cm. Diameter of the mouth 9.3 em. Inv. No 75/2706.

Hand-moulded, with cone-shaped body and vertical neck with straight rim, decorated with incised undulating line at the shoulder and horizontal line on the body. Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 71, fig. 22:2; 48:7.

111. DECORATED POT

Clay. Height 18.7 cm. Diameter of the mouth 18.6 cm; diame- ter at the bottom 10.5 cm.

Inv. No 75/2709.

Hand-moulded, with cone-shaped body, protruding shoul- ders and straight vertical mouth rim; with interlaced un- dulating and horizontal lines incised all over the body. Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 71, fig. 22:5; 48.8.

112. POT

Clay. Height 16 cm. Diameter of the mouth 13 cm. Diameter 8.4 cm at the bottom.

Inv. No 75/2895.

Hand-moulded, with oblong body, slightly protruding shoulders and downturned rim with jagged decorative patterns; similar two-row patterns stamped on the body and shoulders.

Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 153, fig. 19:6, 95.5.

113. DECORATED POT Clay. Height 28.8 cm. Diameter of the mouth 26 cm. Inv. No 75/2856.

Hand-moulded, with oblong body, wider towards the top;

with tapered shoulders and downturned rim with nail-like recesses; the neck is decorated with four horizontal incised lines; with two ornamental strips of multiple horizontal lines interspersed with triple undulating ones on the shoulders and the body.

Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 84, fig. 20:7, 54:5.

114. BOWL-SHAPED POT Clay. Height 12.3 cm. Diameter of the mouth 17.2 cm. Inv. No 75/3482.

Hand-moulded with a slightly bent rim, cone-shaped body and bulging shoulders; decorated with a zig-zag line cut with a jagged tool.

Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 121, fig. 80:7.

TREASURE OF JEWELS AND DECORATIONS DISCOVERED IN THE FORTRESS

115. BRACELET WITH WROUGHT PATTERNS Silver. Diameter 7.1 cm. Inv. No 75/1229.

Wrought silver, ring-shaped, one and a half volutions; with widening ends; small rib with jagged patterns running through the middle.

Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 26, fig. 13, table XCI.

116. A TWO-PIECE NECKLACE Bronze. Diameter 14 cm. Inv. No 75/1230.

Wrought bronze; of two pieces with square and round sec- tion respectively; one end bent into a ring; the other into a hook; with wing-shaped lamellae; stamped jagged pattern. Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 26, fig. 13, table XCI.

117. FIVE-POINTED TEMPORAL RING Silver. Diameter 2.8 cm. Height 4.1 cm. Inv. No 75/1232.

Cast, open, with rays laid with fake beads; the middle ray's tip shaped into a sphere. On top, three prongs also laid with fake beads; the middle one, too, shaped into a sphere. Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 26, fig. 13, table XCI.

o7

118-123. ROUND TEMPORAL RINGS (seven)

Silver (six), bronze (one). Diameters: 4.4, 3.8, 3.3, 3.5, 4.3, 4.0, 4.1 cm respectively.

Inv. Nos 75/1233-1239.

Hammered from cast round wire with ends that do not touch. Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 26, fig. 13, table XCI.

124. RING Bronze. Diameter 2—2.3 cm. Inv. No 75/1231.

Cast, with round-wire body and oval shield. Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 26, fig. 13, table XCI.

TREASURE OF JEWELS AND DIRHAMS FOUND IN A POT IN THE FORTRESS

125. MINIATURE DECORATED POT Clay. Height 5 cm. Diameter of the mouth 5.8 cm. Inv. No 75/2649.

Hand-moulded, with slightly protruding shoulders and cone-shaped body, with stamped jagged patterns. Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 28, fig. 15:3, 19:4.

126. THREE-PIECE BELT BUCKLES (two) Silver. Width 2 cm. Inv. No 75/2643.

Stamped, consisting of three hollow hemispheres with aper- tures at the coupling point. Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 28, fig. 15:3,table XCI, 13, 14.

127. TWO-PIECE BRACELET Silver. Width 0.4—0.6 cm. Inv. No 75/2641.

Forged, narrow tapering strip of metal, with segment-like section. Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 28, fig. 15:3, table XCII,10.

128. THREE-PIECE BUCKLE Silver. Width 3.5 cm. Inv. No 75/2639.

Cast, cross-shaped, with crossbar fitting into a notch. Three ends shaped into flat pine-cones. The notch is round-shaped, with four little paws. Four nail-like pins on the inside. Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 28, fig. 15:3, table XCII, 12.

129. DIRHAM COINS (eight)

Silver. Dimensions: a, b, d, f, g, h— 2.4 em; ¢ — 2.5 cm; e— 2.3 cm.

Inv. Nos 75/2648 a-h.

The entire 10-coin treasure is dated between 711/2and 818/19.

a) Abbasid, as-Safah, al-Kufa, 133 year of the Khalif (y.K.) = 750-751 AD

b) Abbasid, al-Mansur, al-Kufa, 143 y.K. = 760-761 AD

c) Abbasid, Madinat as-Salam, 158 y.K. = 774-775 AD

d) Abbasid, Harun al-Rashid, Ifrikia, 175 y.K. = 791-792 AD

e) Abbasid, Harun al-Rashid, al-Muhammadia,

190 y.K. = 805-806 AD

f) Abbasid, Harun al-Rashid, Madinat as-Salam,

188 y.K. = 803-804 AD

g) Abbasid, al-Mamun, Madinat-Samarkand,

198 y.K. = 813-814 AD

h) Abbasid, Al-Mamun, Madinat as-Salam, 203 y.K. = 818-819 AD

Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 28, fig. 15:1, 2.

130. BELT TIP Silver. Length 3 cm. Width 1.5 cm. Inv. No 75/2642.

Cast; flat, rectangular with a pointed end; with two incised zig-zag lines; with two spikes on the back. Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p.28, fig. 15:3, table XCII, 11.

131. ORNAMENTED RING Silver. Diameter 2.1 cm. Inv. No 75/2638.

Wrought, open-type, w:th oblong, flat shield and round-wire tendrils curling on each side; the thickening ends of the

shield covered with hatches; the centre is covered with ham- mered round patterns. Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, fig. 15:3, table XCII, 9.

132. MULTI-ELEMENT PENDANTS (three) Silver. Length 5.5 cm, 3.6, 3.2 cm. Inv. No 75/2640.

Cast, pole-like, consisting of multi-element spheric elements, with loop on top. Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 28, fig. 15:3, table XCII, 6-8.

133. PLATE-LIKE PENDANT (fragment) Silver. Height 2cm. Inv. No 75/2647

The lower part of a plate-like ear pendant with eight prongs on the inside and outside of the ring. The outside 1s pear- shaped, with a spherical tip.

Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 29, fig. 15:3, table XCJ, 3.

134, 135 EARRINGS, PAIR Silver. Height 2.7 and 2.8 cm. Inv. Nos 75/2644, 2645.

Cast, with oval-shaped rings; upper parts widened as globules, lower parts — double disc-shaped blocks. Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 28, fig. 15:3, table XCII, 1, 2.

136. EARRINGS (two fragments) Silver. Height 2.7 cm, 1.8 cm. Inv. No 75/2646.

Cast, with oval-shaped rings; with pear-shaped and cone- shaped pendant respectively. Ornamentation typical of Sal- tovian-Mayaki culture.

Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 29, fig 15:3, table XCI, 4,5.

137. TEMPORAL RINGS (five) Silver. Diameter from 3.3 to 4.1 em. Inv. No 75/2732.

Hammered out of cast material, wire-like. with unsoldered

ends; hooked together into a chain. Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 66, fig. 44:4, 5.

138. SEVEN-POINTED TEMPORAL RING Silver. Diameter 3.6 cm, height 5 cm. Inv. No 75/3403.

Cast, open-type, of the type worn by the Radimichi tribe. The rays which do not end in spheric protrusions are covered with fake beads; with seven prongs on the inside of the ring. Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, fig. 85:5, table XCHI, 17.

139. CURVED SCYTHE (fragment) Iron. Length 28 cm. Inv. No 75/2694.

With slightly bent wedge-shaped blade and a long heel with hook-like handle. Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 18, fig. 17:4, table LXX XVIII.

140. MATTOCK Iron. Length 14.4 cm. Inv. No 75/3168.

Hand tool with trapezium blade for tilling the land and a tubular insert for fitting an L-shaped handle. Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 18, fig. 7:7.

141-143. ARROWHEADS (three) Iron. Length 9.1 cm, 10.6 cm and 7.5 cm respectively. Inv. Nos 75/1180, 2903, 3186.

No 1180: sharpened, pointed, with a bed for the arrow, dag- ger-shaped, with rhomboid cross-section.

No 2903: flat, pointed, with a bed for the arrow, with a wider lower portion longitudinally.

No 3186: flat, with a bed for the arrow, with pointed wedge. References: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 21, fig. 9:4, 12, 13; Medvedev, 1966, pp. 63, 64, 73.

144. ARROWHEAD Bone. Length 4.2 cm. Inv. No 75/2784.

Flat, leaf-shaped, with a bed for the arrow. Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, pp. 48, 90, fig. 29:21, 57:9.

145. NECKLACE (fragments, eight) Inv. Nos 75/2750, 3217, 3328, 3353, 3354, 3355, 3357, 3381a.

No 2750: round-shaped faience bead with ribs, yellowish- green, diameter 1.5 cm.

No 3217: round-shaped glass bead, grey with white spots, diameter 1.2 cm.

No 3328: double-rounded glass bead, yellow, diameter 1 cm. No 3353, 3354: round sardonyx beads (two), diameter 0.8 and 0.5 cm respectively.

No 3355: round-shaped, slightly flattened glass bead, white with blue spots, diameter 1 cm.

No 3357: oblong glass bead, deep-blue with white strips, length 2.1 cm.

No 3381a: lazurite bead, rectangular, length 1.3 cm. Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 51, fig. 67:8, 83:11 (right), 86:4.

146, 147. DISTAFFS (two) Clay. Diameter 4.2 cm and 3.3 cm respectively. Inv. Nos 75/1943, 3433.

No 1943: flat, made from fragment of a raw clay vessel.

No 3433: biconical, made from brownish clay, decorated with triangular patterns.

Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 46, fig. 27, second line (right); fig 7823:

148. PLOUGHSHARE (insert-type) Iron. Length 27 cm. Inv. No 75/3361.

Part of a plough performing the function of a ploughshare, with cutting surface, tapering towards the end and with a wide insert.

Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 145, fig. 94:3, table LXXXVIII, 3.

149. SICKLE Iron. Length 31 cm (total); length of handle 10.7 cm. Inv. No 75/3163.

Asymmetrical, with elliptical blade and long handle. The tip of the arc of the blade is shifted towards the end of the sickle. Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 18, fig. 7:3, table LX XXVIII.

150. PAN Clay. Diameter 19.5 cm at the bottom. Height 3.5 cm. Inv. No 75/3395.

Decorated with undulating patterns at the rim. Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 129, fig. 86:1.

151. PLOUGHSHARE (insert-type) Iron. Length 18.3 em. Inv. No 75/1147.

Symmetrical, with a welded-on strip along the broad part. Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 15, fig. 7:1, table LX X XVII, 1.

152. AXE Iron. Length 18.5 cm. Inv. No 75/69.

Narrow blade, for chopping, wood; with diamond-shaped upper part. Reference: Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 20, fig. 8:1.

NOMADIC

CULT GRE OF LATE 8"-9" CENTURIES

SALTOVIAN — MAYAKI CULTURE Cat. Nos 153-227

Towards late 8th-9th century, as the steppes of Eastern Europe were conquered by the Khazar Khanate, the popula- tion of what are today Dagestan, the Lower Volga Region, the lands by the Azov Sea, Crimea and the Don basin, fell under its strong cultural, political and economic domination. To a certain extent this also affected the Saltovian-Mayaki cultural community of the Don region, whose monuments have been dated between late 8th and early 10th century (Ar- tamonov, 1940, pp. 151-165).

The Saltovian-Mayaki cultural community was less than homogeneous. The Lower Don basin was inhabited by Proto- Bulgarians, while the Severskiy Donets area and the lands along the Don's upper course by Alani, driven there from the Sub-Caucasian Plains by the advancing Arabs (Artamonov, 1956, p. 333; Lyapushkin, 1958, pp. 85-150; Merpert, 1957; Pletneva, 1981, pp. 62-64). Their cultural heritage is rep- resented at this exhibition by the Saltovian and Dmit- riyevskoye catacomb cemeteries and, partially, by the Mayaki archaeological complex.

During the 9th century the stone-walled and moated Mayaki fortress had been the mainstay of the Khanate's power over the conquered Alani population, as evidenced by preserved frag- ments of limestone walls with inscribed Turkic words and phrases (cf. Cat. Nos 208, 209). The location of the stone blocks in the ruins of the fortress, bearing inscriptions, signs and drawings, suggests that initially most of them were on the outside of the fortress, in its inner corner, in the space around the gates and along its upper part. These inscriptions

along the fortress walls apparently were made by the garri- son sentries while on guard duty; judging by the Turkic characters, they were Turkic-speaking Proto-Bulgarians or Khazars rather than Alani (Pletneva, 1984, pp. 57-60). Along with inscribed stone blocks from the Mayaki fortress, the exhibition displays objects unearthed in the Dmit- riyevskoye and Saltovian Alani necropoli, largely identical with those of the Sub-Caucasian Alani culture: mostly weapons or gear of Alani horsemen.

During the 8th—9th century a horseman's outfit included a sword resembling those used by the Eurasian nomads (cf. Cat. No 207). Still, the bow and arrows were their main weapon — cf. Cat. Nos 185-189 (Kovalevskaya, 1984, p. 159). A most important element of a horseman's burial was his combat horse. A horse gear comprised a mouthpiece, stirrup, bells and a whole set of head decorations, including a brow- bant and gilded bronze buckles (cf. Cat. Nos 155-179; 191, 193).

The glazed grey clay pitcher and cup (Cat. Nos 183, 184) are typical examples of the culture's pottery.

Bronze amulets and mirrors were typical of the Alani branch of the Saltovian-Mayaki culture and the Alani tribes of the Central Sub-Caucasian region, where they had come from the Don basin.

The mirrors of the Sub-Caucasian Alani were used as per- sonal talismans, and were made to different standards in the separate settlements throughout the Sub-Caucasian Region (Kovalevskaya, 1984, pp. 161, 162). The variety of shapes and

decorative patterns in the mirrors of the Saltovian-Mayaki culture in the Don Region betrays Alani migration from var- ious parts of the Sub-Caucasian region (cf. Cat. Nos 181, 182, 204).

Miniature amulet-mirrors (Cat. No 205) are also a common find in Alani tombs along with medium-sized ones; other types of amulets included solar signs, birds' heads and boxes (Cat. Nos 153, 154; 194-197).

The glass beads, amulets and other objects discovered in Alani tombs of the Saltovian-Mayaki culture could have been brought there by migrating tribes from the Central Sub-Caucasian Region, or bought from Arab merchants en route, up the Volga or Don, to the Kama region with loads of beads for sale in exchange for furs (cf. Cat. Nos. 198-203). The culture of Proto-Bulgarians is represented by contem- porary, or slightly later, monuments: the Tsimlyansk fortress on the right bank (9th century), the Volokonovka necropolis (late 9th-10th century), and the Khazar fortress at Sarkel (9th- 10th century).

The Volokonovka finds are represented at the exhibition with vessels and decorations. The glazed grey clay pitcher made in the traditional 8th—9th century style is of a slightly different shape compared with earlier examples (cf. Cat. No 214). Along with the typical 9th century rough vessel turned on a potter's wheel, the exhibition shows a hand-moulded imitation (cf. Cat. Nos 211, 212).

The Tsimlyansk fortress had been built of limestone blocks on a promontory on the right bank. The farming implements: sickle, scythe, ploushare, peshnya (ice-breaking rod), mat- tock and pruning knife (Cat. Nos 218,

221, 223, 225-227), as well as hand tools: tongs, scissors and hammer (Cat. Nos 217, 220, 224) found there, together with the traces of tent-shaped dwellings scattered around the fortress, testify to a transi- tion from nomadic to more settled life for the Proto-Bulga- rian population.

The stone walls and the pieces of horseman's gear (Cat. Nos 216, 222) suggest that this had been a Proto-Bulgarian feudal fortress. According to other evidence, it came to a sudden and tragic end.

THE NECROPOLIS AT THE VILLAGE OF VERKHNEYE SALTOVO

This necropolis was discovered near the village of Verkhneye

Saltovo near Staro-Saltovo, Kharkov region, on the right bank of the river Severskiy Donets, in the immediate vicinity of a fortress and a settlement.

The necropolis, which lies on the hills along the right bank of the Seveskiy Donets, was discovered by V. A. Babenko, a local schoolteacher. Subsequent excavations were made by V. A. Babenko (1905, 1906, 1911), A. M. Pokrovsky, N. E. Makarenko, A. S. Fedorovsky, S. A. Semenov-Zusser and others, and later by D.T.Berezovets (1959, 1960).

The Saltovian catacomb necropolis was built by the Alani and like most Saltovian-Mayaki monuments dates from late 8th — early 10th century.

References: Lyapushkin, 1958, pp. 85-88; Lyapushkin, 1961, pp. 199, 200; Pletneva, 1967, pp. 135-143; Pletneva, 1981, pp. 3-190.

153. AMULET Bronze. Height 2.7 cm. Diameter 1.5 cm. Inv. No 905/90. Catacomb No 1, woman's tomb.

Of two identical cast halves, forming an empty box of flat- tened spherical shape: with two semi-cylindrical legs along the shortest axis. Two apertures appear on the broad base of the legs. Two metal loops on both sides.

Unpublished.

154. AMULET Bronze. Height 3.6 cm. Diameter 2.4 cm. Inv. No 1107/2097. Catacomb No 27, burial 3 or 4.

Of two identical cast halves, forming an empty box of flat- tened spherical-shape: with two semi-cylindrical legs along the shortest axis; with two apertures on the broad base of the legs. Two metal loops on both sides.

Reference: Artamonov, 1962, fig. on p. 297.

155-172. BUCKLES OF CEREMONIAL HORSE GEAR Bronze. Dimensions: No 230—15.8 x 7.8 cm; No 231-6.0 x 8.7 cm; Nos 232—245 — diameter 8.3 cm; Nos 246, 247 — diameter 5.8 cm.

Inv. Nos 1107/230-247. Catacomb at Kapinosov ravine, tomb No 8, burial 3.

Gilded bronze plates with holes containing decayed strap ends. No 230: concave figure plate with round orifice with a

short cylinder attached to the bunch of feathers; No 231: plate in the shape of oblong leaf with the point cut away; No 232-247: round plates of different diameters.

Not published previously.

173. BELT BUCKLES (six)

Silver. Length of bukcle with ring: 2.7—2.8 cm. Buckle with slit: 1.3 x 2.4 cm; tip 1.4 x 2.6 cm.

Inv. Nos 1107/2144, 1948, catacomb burial.

a) Four heart-shaped cast buckles with floral patterns in re- lief; each with ring attached to metal lug.

b) One rectangular cast buckle with rectangular orifice for the belt. Decorated with fine embossed floral patterns. Each buckle had three plus with small plates for mounting on a belt.

c) Cast belt tip decorated on both sides with fine floral pat- terns.

Not published previously.

174-180. BELLS (seven)

Bronze. Dimensions: Nos 248, 249 — 2.4 x 3.3 cm; the rest — 2.8 x 3.6 cm.

Inv. Nos 1107/248-254. Catacomb at the Kapinosov ravine, tomb No 8, burial 3.

Cast, of slightly oblong spherical shape, each with lug on top (Cat. Nos 248, 249) separated from the body by a small hoop and slit underneath. With longitudinal ribs.

Not published previously.

181. MIRROR White alloy. Diameter 6.3 cm. Inv. No 1107/1660. Catacomb No 11.

Cast, of rounded shape, the back decorated with four jagged circles in relief; with lug in the centre. Reference: Artamonov, 1962, fig. on p. 296.

182. MIRROR Bronze. Diameter 6.8 cm. Inv. No 905/149. Catacomb No 7, woman's burial.

Cast, round-shaped; back with a decorative border, with lug

in the centre; the rest is decorated with stylised human fi- gures in relief, with raised hands. Reference: Artamonov, 1962, fig. on p. 296.

183. CUP Clay. Height 11.0 cm. Diameter of the mouth 9.4 cm. Inv. No 1107/2106. Catacomb No 27, burial 3 or 4.

Of grey clay, barrel-shaped. The handle decorated with stylised animal figurine.

Moulded on a potter's wheel. Glazed all over, with cross-in-a- circle emblem on the bottom.

Not published previously.

184. PITCHER

Clay. Height 22.6 em. Largest diameter 21.8 cm; diameter at the bottom 13.8 cm.

Inv. No 1107/1721. Catacomb No 11.

Of grey clay, with short neck widening towards the mouth rim. The mouth rim turned slightly inwards. The handle has oval section. Moulded on a potter's wheel, with two horizon- tal lines at the line between neck and body. The exterior de- corated with longitudinal glazed strips.

Not published previously.

185-189. ARROWHEADS (five)

Iron, wood, bark. Length (of the preserved parts): 3.6 cm, 3.3 cm, 3.8 cm, 2.8 cm, 2.8 cm respectively. Width at tail: 0.4 cm, 0.4 cm, 0.7 cm, 0.7 cm.

Inv Nos. 1107/1107-1111. Ravine in the Rovenek forest, catacomb No 16, burial 2.

All points three-windeg, with parts of arrow shaft fastened with bark. Not published previously.

190. IRON KNIVES IN WOODEN SHEATHS (fragments) Iron, traces of wood. Length of larger fragment 11.1 cm. Inv. No 1107/1596, 1911, catacomb No 9.

Fragments of two knives in the same pack-sheath. Saltovian knives were kept in pack-sheaths of two or three, each ina separate compartment. R. S. Minassyan calls them knife sets. Reference: Minassyan, 1980.

191. STIRRUPS Iron. Height 18.0 cm. Largest width 14.9 cm. Inv. No 1107/1993/2, catacomb No 20.

Arc-shaped, of diamond-shaped metal bar, with flat step with longitudinal rib. Rectangular hole for the stirrup leather.

Not published previously.

192. AXE

Iron. Length 12.6 cm. Width 4.0 cm.

Inv. No 1107/1164. Ravine by the road to the Rovenek forest, catacomb No 16.

Forged combat axe with protruding lug. The front ends with a widening square portion. Not published previously.

193. HORSE BIT Iron. Total length 22.5 cm. Inv. No 1107/1894. Catacomb No 13.

Forged. L-shaped, with rectangular lug decorated with transverse ribs. Not published previously.

THE NECROPOLIS AT THE VILLAGE OF DMITRIYEVSKOYE

Discovered near the village of Dmitriyevskoye, Shebekin area, Belgorod region, the necropolis lies on the right bank of the river Korocha, tributary of the Nezhegol, which for its part flows into the Severskiy Donets. This catacomb ne- cropolis is part of a larger archaeological complex, which also comprises a fortress and a settlement, all dated to late 8th — early 10th century. The necropolis has been explored archaelogically by S. A. Pletneva in 1957, 1966, 1967, 1970, 1972 and 1973.

References: Lyapushkin, 1961, p. 71; Pletneva, 1967, pp. 71, 135-143; Pletneva, 1981, pp. 62-75.

194. AMULET Bronze. Height 4.6 cm. Largest diameter 3.8 cm. Inv. No 2423/171, catacomb No 125, burial 2.

Of two identical halves, soldered together along the longest

axis: an empty box of almost spherical shape. With two prot- ruding semi-cylindrical legs along the shortest axis. Two slits on the wider base and lugs on both sides.

Not published previously.

195. AMULET Bronze. Height 2.2 cm. Width 3.9 cm. Inv. No 2423/510. Catacomb No 164, burial 3.

Cast, W-shaped, with lug on top and two curving halves un- derneath ending with bird’s heads turned away from each other.

Not published previously.

196. AMULET Bronze. Diameter 3.4 cm. Inv. No 2423/59. Catacomb No 119, burial 2.

Cast, wheel-shaped, of two concentric circles connected with seven “spokes”; with lug on the outer circle. Not published previously.

197. AMULET Bronze. Length 3.3 cm. Width 3.1 cm. Inv. No 2614/168. Catacomb No 125, burial 2.

Cast, ring-shaped. With loop on top, birds’ heads on both sides and underneath, the lower ones connected back-to- back.

Reference: Pletneva, 1981, fig. 36, No 57.

198-203. BEADS (twenty-nine)

Glass. Dimensions from 0.5 x 1.2 x 1.6 cm to 1.2.x 1.4 x 3.3 cm.

Inv. Nos 2423/269-272, 274-275. Catacomb No 140, burial 3.

The exhibited beads vary in shape and colour: polychromatic (16) and monochromatic (13); elliptical, quadrangular and triangular in the longitudinal section, rounded, cylindrical and compound in shape — two or three banded beads. Most of them are made from pieces of polychromatic tubes and bands, from monochromatic and two-layer glass tubes with an internal silver thread that are rounded with pitches. One base is made by rolling molten glass with an instrument and

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the ornamented eyes by multiple dips of molten glass on the base. Unpublished.

204. MIRROR Bronze. Diameter 6.6 cm. Inv. No 2614/252. Catacomb No 114.

Cast, round-shaped, with loop in the centre of the back. The entire surface covered with decorative patterns in relief: concentric circles, triangles, ordinary circles, or dots.

Not published previously.

205. MIRROR Bronze. Diameter 3.1 cm. Inv. No 2614/262. Catacomb No 114.

Cast, round-shaped, with loop in the centre of the back. The entire surface covered with decorative patterns in relief: cir- cles and loop-shaped lines.

Not published previously.

206. RING

Bronze, glass. Diameter 2.0 cm. Dimensions of shield 1.4 x 1.5 cm.

Inv. No 2423/265. Catacomb No 114.

The metal band is welded onto an oval shield with four lugs to hold the gem, which is an oval, convex piece of translucent brown glass.

Not published previously.

207. SWORD

Iron, silver. Length of blade 89.0 cm. Width 2.5 cm. Dimen- sions of the ring 6.6 x 3.5 x 1.1 cm.

Inv. No 2423/691. Catacomb No 109.

Single-edged, slightly curved blade, with arched loop for the shoulder-strap. The preserved part of the casing of the handle is in the form of a silver ring.

Not published previously.

THE MAYAKI FORTRESS

Near the village of Divnogoriye, Liski area, Voronesh re-

gion, on the right bank of the river Tikhaya Sosna before it reaches the Don. This white stone, moated fortress stands on a steep, high (up to 70 m) bank, near a settlement and a catacomb cemetery.

The Mayaki complex, which dates from the 9th — early 10th century, was discovered in 1890. In 1906 it was explored by A. A. Spitsin and excavated by A. I. Milyutin, and in 1908- 1909, by N. E. Makarenko. In 1975 and later, in 1977-1982, the site was thoroughly explored by a joint Soviet-Bulga- rian-Hungarian expedition under S. A. Pletneva.

References: Artamonov, 1940, pp. 154-157, 159; Pletneva, 1981, pp. 62-75; Pletneva, 1984, pp. 3-19, 57-94; Erdelyi, 1984, pp. 20-25; Afanasiyev, 1984, pp. 26-56; Vinnikov, 1984, pp. 95-135: Golubeva, 1984, pp. 136-141; Flerov, 1984, pp. 142-199; Konduktorova, 1984, pp. 200-236; Matolchi, 1984, pp. 237-260; Afanasiyev, Nikolayenko, 1984, pp. 261-270.

208. HEXAGONAL BLOCK WITH INSCRIPTIONS Dimensions 28.0 x 23.0 x 8.0 cm. Inv. No 1929/3.

The inscriptions and symbols are incised with a pointed object. Not published previously.

209. HEXAGONAL BLOCK WITH INCISED FIGURES OF TWO WARRIORS.

Dimensions 31.0 x 44.0 x 12.0 cm.

Inv. No 2710/3.

The scene, incised with a pointed object, probably a hand tool, represents two fighting male figures. On the left is a fi- gure in full face, in armour and with sharply pointed shoes, holding a spear with a leaf-shaped blade to the breast of the other. The latter, also in pointed shoes, is shown holding an oval shield.

Both figures are highly stylised with three fingers on each hand. The figure on the left shown with exposed phallus. Reference: Pletneva, 1984, p. 74, fig. II.

THE VOLOKONOVSKI NECROPOLIS

Discovered on the outskirts of the village of Volokonovka,

Volokonovka area, Belgorod region, on the bank of the Oskol in its middle course. Not far from cemetery on the right bank, there had been a fortress, three settlements and two catacomb cemeteries.

The necropolis lies on the second terrace. Unearthed in 1973 by A. G. Nikolayenko.

The Volokonovski necropolis features pit graves, in most of which there were coffins, a rarity for 8th — early 9th century pitgrave or catacomb cemeteries in the Don region. The con- figuration of the graves and the objects discovered date them towards late 9th — early 10th century, and betray the settled way of life of the Proto-Bulgarians buried there.

Reference: Pletneva, Nikolayenko, 1976, pp. 279-298.

210. POT

Clay. Height 10.6 cm. Largest diameter 12.4 cm; diameter at bottom 8.5 cm.

Inv. No 2695/23. Grave No 8, woman's burial.

Turned on a potter's wheel, from grey clay, with a slightly downturned rim. The body is divided in two by a groove; the lower portion with oblique glazed crossing strips.

Not published previously.

211. POT

Clay. Height 12.0 cm. Largest diameter 10.5 cm; diameter at bottom 7.3 cm.

Inv. No 2695/14. Grave No 8, woman's burial.

Hand-moulded, of grey clay with slightly bent mouth rim de- corated with oblique hatches; with irregular transverse grooves over the body. Traces of wooden board imprinted on the bottom. A typical imitation of Saltovian-Mayaki pottery with transverse grooves.

Not published previously.

212. POT

Clay. Height 13.9 cm. Largest diameter 13.2 cm; diameter at bottom 8.6 cm.

Inv. No 2695/13. Grave No 7, man's burial.

Made on a potter's wheel, of grey clay with slightly curved mouth rim. Decorated with transverse grooves. Stamped with a cross-in-a-circle sign on the bottom.

Not published previously.

213. MIRROR Bronze. Diameter 8.7 cm. Inv. No 2695/15. Grave No 8, woman's burial.

Cast, round-shaped, with flanged back. Another flange, 1.5 cm apart, divides the back surface in two concentric zones. In the centre of the inner circle, a loop decorated with four lying animals in relief. The outer circle engraved with vine-like patterns.

Reference: Pletneva, Nikolayenko, 1976, fig. 8, No 2.

214. PITCHER

Clay. Height 27.5 cm. Largest diameter 18.3 cm; diameter at bottom 11.6 cm.

Inv. No 2695/11. Grave No 6, man's burial.

Made on a potter's wheel, of grey clay, with oval body. Tall, cylindrical neck widening towards the rim. With short spout, the rim slightly turned inwards. The handle has oval cross- section. The lower portion of the body and the neck em- phasized with horizontal strips. The outer surface and handle decorated with transverse glassed strips. With a string of triangular notches in the lower part of the neck. Reference: Pletneva, Nikolayenko, 1976, fig. 6, No 2.

215. RINGS (two)

Bronze. Dimensions: a) diameter 2.5 cm, shield 1.2 x 1.1 cm; b) diameter 2.0 cm, shield 0.9 x 0.7 cm.

Inv. No 2695/16(2). Grave No 8, woman's burial.

Each consisting of a flat band, smoothly widening towards an oval shield. Reference: Pletneva, Nikolayenko, 1976, fig. 8, No. 2.

TSIMLYANSK FORTRESS ON THE RIGHT BANK, ROSTOV REGION

Near the Tsimlyansk wine-growing farm, Tsimlyansk area, Rostov region, on the right bank of the Tsimlyansk water re- servoir. Formerly a white-stone fortress, it lies on a promon- tory surrounded with ravines. Dated towards the 9th cen- tury.

Excavations of the fortress were made in 1885-1887 by V. I. Sizov and N. V. Vesselovsky, in 1939 by I. I. Lyapushkin; in 1958-1959 by S. A. Pletneva.

References: Artamonov, 1940, pp. 153, 154, 158; Lyapushkin, 1940, pp. 58-62; Lyapushkin, 1958, p. 16; Pletneva, 1984, pp. 3-190.

216. HORSE FETTERS Iron. Length 33.0 cm. Largest width 10.2 cm. Inv. No 2662/216.

Forged, made from a split oblong plate, with two hooks re- movably attached to it.

References: Pletneva, 1967, fig. 39, No 2; Pletneva, 1981, fig. 36, No 81.

217. TONGS

Iron. Length 40.0 cm. Largest width 4.0 cm. Length of jaws 5.9 cm.

Inv. No 2662/281.

Forged, of two halves held together by a strong bolt. The square jaws curve smoothly into broad handles, tapering slightly towards the ends.

References: Artamonov, 1962, fig. on p. 319; Pletneva, 1967, fig. 41, No 1; Pletneva, 1981, fig. 36, No 43.

218. SCYTHE

Iron. Length of blade 41.0 cm. Largest width 4.0 cm; width of heel 2.0 cm.

Inv. No 2662/159.

Forged, heel and blade at right angles. References: Artamonov, 1962, fig. on p. 320; Pletneva, 1981, fig. 38, No 1; Pletneva, 1981, fig. 36, No 50.

219. FISHING HOOK Iron. Length 6.3 cm. Inv. No 2662/95.

Forged from one piece, one end pointed, the other bent into a loop. Not published previously.

220. BLACKSMITH S HAMMER Iron. Length 16.9 cm. Largest width 4.5 cm.Inv. No 2662/2735.

With wrought rectangular face, a long, solid tip and wide hole. Reference: Pletneva, 1967, fig. 41, No 3.

221. MATTOCK Iron. Length 8.3 cm. Inv. No 2662/153.

Forged, rectangular Not published previously

222. SPEARHEAD Iron. Length 29.0 cm. Diameter of neck 3.0 cm.

Forged, leaf-shaped; with cylindrical neck with inner cross-piece. Not published previously.

223. PRUNING KNIFE Iron. Length 29.0 cm. Largest width of blade 4.5 cm. Inv. No 2662/184.

Forget in the shape of a large sickle, with a sharp protruding edge on the back and a long neck for fitting a handle. References: Artamonov, 1962, fig. on p. 319; Pletneva, 1967, fig. 38, No 6; Pletneva, 1981, fig. 36, No 57.

224. TINNERS' SHEARS Iron. Length 32.0 cm. Largest width 3.7 cm.Inv. No 2662/280.

Forged, of two parts held together by a strong bolt. One part is straight, with rectangular cross-section, thick, tapered to wards the handle. The other part of more complex shape: with similar blade but curved handle.

References: Artamonov, 1962, fig. on p. 319; Pletneva, 1981, fig. 36, No 42.

225. PLOUGHSHARE Iron. Length 22.8 cm. Largest width 13.3 cm at slade. Width of slades 4.0 cm and 1.6 cm respectively. Inv. No 2662/152.

Forged, asymmetrical, with loop.

References: Pletneva, 1967, fig. 38, No 8; Pletneva, 1981, fig. 36, No 52.

226. SICKLE

Iron. Length 35.0 cm. Blade span 24.2 cm. Length of handle 10.8 cm. Maximum blade curvature 7.0 cm. Largest width 1.7 cm.

Inv. No 2662/80.

Forged. Handle at obtuse angle to blade. Not published previously.

227. PESHNYA (ice-breaking rod) Iron. Length 51.0 cm. Length of blade 19.1 cm. Inv. No 2662/158.

The handle hammered into rectangular shape. The working part in cone-shaped, tapering into a triangular blade. References: Artamonov, 1962, fig. on p. 320; Pletneva, 1967, fig. 38, No 10; Pletneva, 1981, fig. 36, No 53.

THE KHAZAR- SLAV FORTRESS SARKEL- BELAYA VEZHA

Cat. Nos 228-315

For a century and a half the Khazar state which dominated the southern half of Europe had kept in check the Nomads advancing from the East. Yet, raids by neighbouring tribes remained a source of trouble. In the 830's the Magyars came from beyond the river Volga, followed by Uzes and Pechenegs. No less dangerous to the Khazars was the Rus- sian state, founded along the middle course of the Dnieper. The Khazars were also compelled to protect their lands from their western neighbours; this had been the main reason for building the Sarkel fortress on the Don river near their north-western border. This is supposed to have taken place during the reign of King Khanuka, following and internecine war in Khazaria in the 820's—830's (Artamonov, 1962, pp. 298, 327, 328). The building of the Sarkel fortress is men- tioned in a treatise by Constantine VII Porphyrogenes, em- peror of Byzantium between 913 and 959, "On Governing the Empire" (translated by G. G. Litavrina, 1982), which says that the Khazars had asked emperor Theophilus of Byzan- tium (829-842) for assistance in building the fortress.

In re- sponse, the latter dispatched one of his dignitaries, Petrones Kamatirus, to supervise the building, in the 830's (834 ac- cording to some sources), of a brick fortress on the left bank of the Don. It was given the name Sarkel which, according to Constantine Porphyrogenes, meant "white fortress". In all probability, the fortress was built to replace a destroyed white stone castle of the same name on the right bank of the river. As the new fortress was meant to perform all the func-

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tions of the old one, it also inherited its name (Artamonov, 1962, pp. 323, 325; Pletneva, 1967, pp. 39-46). Along with protecting the domain, it was also intended to guard the land routes leading west and northwest from the Khazar State (Artamonov, 1962, p. 299).

The Sarkel fortress stands on a river promontory, sur- rounded with deep moats and earth banks. It is rectangular in shape, 193.5 x 133.5 m; the walls are 3.75 m thick, with numerous towers and turrets: quadrangular towers jutting out at the four corners and square turrets at equal distances along the walls. The walls and towers are built without foun- dations, on throughly levelled ground. The gates are in the protruding walls of the towers. The main gate is in the northwestern tower, and the "river" gate — in the north-east ern one. Inside the fortress wall, next to the main gate, are the guardhouses, rectangular buildings facing the gate. Next to them is a stone draw-well with a wooden lid, used during sieges when the gates had to be kept closed. The courtyard is divided in two by a transverse stone wall fortified with three turrets.The citadel, which has no exit, occupies the south- eastern part of the fortress, with the dungeon in its south- ernmost corner. Between the outer walls and the transverse wall are long brick halls, some of which divided into the smaller premises. All these had been designed to give the for- tress extra protection. Some of the buildings and premises inside the fortress were built in later times, probably after the garrisons moved into the fortress. There is nothing

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The Khazar Khanate in the 8th—9th century (after S. A. Pletneva)

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Byzantine about the building methods used in the Sarkel for- tress (Artamonov, 1956; Rappoport, 1959). Stone walls with- out foundations had been built in Khazaria earlier, too; the use of bricks in the Khanate had been reported by Arab sources. The shape of the bricks, the structure of brickwork and the composition of plaster, as well as the fortification methods used in building the Sarkel fortress were all very dif- ferent from Byzantine practice. The quality of the buildings in the Sarkel fortress demonstrates the very high skills of Khazar builders who, according to P. A. Rappoport, had come from the southern and Caucasian region. In ancient Caucasian Albania, for instance, the use of fired bricks had been known since the 6th century (Rappoport, 1959, p. 39). Sarkel was clearly erected by local builders, as evidenced by inscriptions and symbols on the bricks, similar to those on the stones of the Mayaki fortress, or the ancient Bulgarian capitals Pliska and Preslav (Artamonov, 1956; 1962, pp. 301— 302). The help of Petrones, according to Artamonov, amounted to little more than technical consultations. In all probability, the true aim of his visit had been to collect infor- mation about the

political situation in Khazaria and Eastern Europe, and particularly about the dreaded new enemy, Rus- sia. The Russian raids on the Crimean coast had, even before the building of Sarkel, worried Byzantium and the Khazars alike.

Probably the Khanate, too, had its internal troubles. It was not so much the technical skills of the Byzantine that it needed, but rather some dramatic improvement in its rela- tions with Byzantium in the face of the Russo-Magyar threat. As a result, Petrones took advantage of the prevailing moods there to build a Christian temple in Sarkel. The marble ar- chitectural ornament that had been brought all the way from the Chersonesos was never used.

Sarkel was built in the middle of a large of cultivated land, tilled by the already partially settled nomads of the Salto- vian-Mayaki cultural community. It was among them that the builders who would later settle in the fortress had come from. It had been they, again, that had built the dugouts with fireplaces in the middle, found outside the fortress walls. Some of these dugouts were discovered under layers of plas- ter from the building site; others had been cut off from it by the moat. No traces of earlier settlers have been discovered on the site of the fortress.

Sarkel was not to remain for long just a military fortress, in-

habited, according to Constantine Porphyrogenes, by a gar- rison of 300 Khazars (or perhaps nomads of some Turkic tribe — Pechenegs or Uzes?), changing every year (Ar- tamonov, 1962, p. 316; Pletneva, 1986, p. 53). The soldiers lived in brick houses, in the dungeon, or in tents on the brick pavement by the fortress wall. Outside the citadel were the dwellings of the civilian population. Once completed, the fortress quickly filled with a multilingual crowd, distin- guishable by the quality of the pottery manufactured. Two groups can clearly be differentiated. Two principal groups appeared: the representatives of the local Saltovian-Mayaki culture (the Proto-Bulgarians) inhabited the southwestern portion of the fortress and typically lived in dugouts or over-ground dwellings, with fireplaces in the middle. Characteris- tic about them were kitchen pots made on a potter's wheel, spherical and decorated with densely incised patterns (Cat. No 235), as well as oval, decorated with various symbols, or hand-moulded pans (Cat. No 285) (Pletneva, 1959, pp. 212- 272; Pletneva, 1967, pp. 103-134). Among the various ves- sels, mention is due of the single-handled pitchers, with glazed ornamented strips or incised patterns (Cat. No 255). Round clay pots with inner loops for hanging over the fire and hand-moulded imitations (Cat. No 251) were also used, although rarely (Pletneva, 1967, pp. 108, 110). These were particularly characteristic of the more settled nomads. Very common in that period were pitchers with narrow necks and flat handles (of the type No 256), amphorae and oil lamps (Cat. No 284). Unlike the civilian population, the soldiers liv- ing in the citadel used the so-called Sarkel nomadic pottery: moulded pitchers and pots with garland-like ornamentation (Cat. No 257), miniature pots (Cat. No 286) with lids deco- rated in the same style (Cat. No 254). Particularly interesting is the ritual vessel (Cat. No 293) with handle shaped like a pair of ram's hourns, and the child's pot (Cat. No 236) with convolute rim. Such pots were probably put in the baby's cradle, judging by ethnographic parallels.

The third group of people, those inhabiting the northwestern corner of the fortress, were the Slavs. They lived in dwellings half-buried in the ground, with stone ovens, and used characteristic Borshevo-type moulded vessels (Cat. No 234). These Borshevo Vyatichi Slavs had supposedly come to Sar- kel from the lands along the Don's upper course. To them are also attributed the very rare Vyatichi-type seven-pointed temporal rings (Cat. No 233).

The Sarkel fortress, which was situated on a major crossroads of busy land and river routes, linking Northwest-ern Khazaria with its southern dominions and with its north- ern neighbours, quickly attracted a crowd of craftsmen and traders, and during the last decade of the 9th century grew into a city (Pletneva, 1950, p. 271). It was probably during that period that the second deep moat and the rampart were added, cutting off a large portion from the river bank around the fortress. The population kept raising cattle and tilling the land, but these livelihoods had lost much of their previous importance, giving way to crafts and trade which became typical of the city of Sarkel. Under the Khazars, pottery was the most flourishing of these (Artamonov, 1958, pp. 30, 40; Pletneva, 1959). Iron-smelting was considerably less de- veloped; no remains of blacksmith's shops or

implements from that period have been discovered. The range of iron tools was limited: mostly farming implements of the type displayed in the showcase of the Pravoberezhnoye (Right Bank) fortress, as well as weapons or horse gear (Sorokin, 1959, p. 194). Non-ferrous metallurgy, however, was much more advanced, as shown by the numerous discovered smelt- ing pots, bronze and lead ingots. Among the goldsmith's tools mention is due of the dies for stamping belt tips and buckles. A whole set of such bronze dies (Cat. Nos 244-246) have been preserved by a goldsmith, wrapped in a piece of cloth. Also interesting is an unfinished belt buckle, perhaps scrapped as unfit for the purpose (Cat. No 271). Another rare buckle in Sarkel was an oval one, with the tongue missing, with a zoomorphic ornament (Cat. No 275). But perhaps the master- piece of Sarkel jewellery is a silver belt set (Cat. No 274), forming part of a treasure. The latter also included a bronze belt set and a string of sardonyx beads (not shown) with pen- dant dirhams, the latest of which dates from 943-954. The owner of the belt was probably a noble warrior, who in the face of some unknown danger chose to hide his treasures in pot of millet and left it behind to burn in the fire when the fortress was seized by Svyatoslav in 965 (Artamonov, 1958, p. 54 ff.). The silver belt set with all the various buckles, fas- teners and belt tips, consists of three belts corresponding to the succesive ranks a military man would reach in his career. The differences in style between the separate sets reflect the changing styles and skills in the craft of goldsmithry (Makarova, Pletneva, 1983, pp. 62-77).

The Sarkel goldsmiths made various pendants and amulets

(Cat. Nos 271-273) typical of the peoples in the Khazar Kha- nate who at that time continued to worship their pagan gods despite the official adoption of Judaism in early 9th century. A unique little figurine found in Sarkel illustrates the beliefs of the contemporary urban population: the worship of the God-Chiefs, supreme among whom was Tengri-Khan, the god of heaven and light, a "monstrous great hero" accord- ing to Moses Kagankatvatsi, an ancient Armenian chroni- cler. The figurine shows a man with big, bulging eyes, hair swept back at the temples, with a club in hand (Cat. No 288), in all probability Tengri-Khan himself (Pletneva, 1967, pp. 178, 179).

Very popular among nomads, the Saltovians included, were the various decorative buckles (Cat. Nos 229, 230), used on leather bags, horse gears and combat belts. Other typical de- corations used by the Sarkel residents included earrings, pendants, bells, bracelets, necklaces, rings — notably "paw- shaped" — with glass, amber or plain metal shields (Cat. Nos 266, 267). Beauty kits included metal pincers, mirrors and various bone combs (Cat. Nos 241, 242, 249, 250). Bone carv- ing featured various zoomorphic patterns; e.g. the neck of a wine-bag (skin vessel), itself made of bone, carved with com- plex decorative patterns (Cat. No 238); the sculptured animal head (Cat. No 259) or the applique of a carved wolf's head (Cat. No 264). An exquisite example of local bone-carving skills is the figurine of a duck's head with stylised tail on psalium (Cat. No 279). Another characteristic nomadic ac- cessory was the braided whip with a carved handle made from animal horn (Cat. No 281). The folding nomaaic sickles

were kept in special sheaths, often with carved bone decora- tions (Cat. No 282). The rich collections of bone articles also features appliques for bows and quivers (Cat. Nos 261-263, 268). The shorter, thicker bow tips were characteristic of the 9th — early 10thcentury, according to Pletneva. The bone dice, astragali (Cat. No 228), carved handles, needle-cases (Cat. No 273), and other objects were also widespread in the southern Russian steppes and Russia.

In 965 the seizing of the Sarkel fortress by Prince Svyatoslav was a worthy finale to his victorious march against the Kha- zars in the Volga region. His first step had been to subjugate the Vyatichi, the only Slavic tribe to pay taxes to the Kha- zars. Then Svyatoslav's troops marched down the lower rea- ches of the Volga and, after crushing the Khazar rearguard and capturing the Sub-Caucasian city of Semender, defeated

.the Yasi and Kassogi who then inhabited the lands along the Kuban. Having done that, Svyatoslav marched on towards the Kerch Straits, then controlled by the Khazars, subjuga- ted the local population; it was known that the Tmutarakan principality was formed there. He continued, up the river Don, towards Sarkel, where he besieged and took the for- tress. In the chronicles it is called Belaya Vezha, i.e. the Rus- sian transation of the

Khazar word “Sarkel”. Part of the in- ner brick buildings were destroyed as a result of the siege, and the fortress walls were partly damaged. After Sarkel fell, the ethnic composition of the population in the city did not change much. Even the garrison consisted, as before, of Pe- chenegs and Uzes, to whom possibly a number of Russian soldiers left by Svyatoslav to maintain the order in the con- quered city, were added. Belaya Vezha began slowly to grow; the population, particularly its Russian portion, was increa- sing. The entire brick fortress filled up, plus that part of the promontory, behind the northwestern wall, which under the Khazars had stayed uninhabited (Artamonov, 1962, pp. 50, 51 ff.). In building their dwellings, the local people had used bricks from the inner fortifications, as well as materials left over from the building of the fortress. This demolition pro- cess continued, even more intensively, building ovens and ce- liars. “Mixed-type” dwellings, with wattle and daub and with brick ovens, became increasingly common. Brick fire- places and tentlike houses, a heritage from the nomadic lifes- tyle, were also used, although rarely.

Old Russian pottery (Cat. No 237) began to be made, yet the ol- der workshops that made glazed Saltovian pottery and red- clay pitchers remained active (Cat. No 256).

Belaya Vezha grew into a busy mediaeval trading and manu- facturing centre, featuring all sorts of crafts known by that time. The numerous pieces of jewellery and decorations testi- fy to a very high level of smelting and gold-working skills. The best examples (silver necklaces, bracelets and temporal rings) have been discovered in tombs in the Belaya Vezha ce- metery (Cat. Nos 306-308, 311-314); in addition, jeweller’s moulds, including ones for casting ear-pendants (Cat. No 289), have been discovered in the fortress itself. Also interes- ting is the axe-pendant, perhaps used as an amulet (Cat. No 270). Belaya Vezha’s blacksmith’s shops produced a wide range of iron-working tools: anvils, hammers, tongs, chisels, files, fitter’s tools, farming impelements, weapons: arrow- heads, spearheads, sword (Sorokin, 1959); or a rare weapon —

the mace head (Cat. No 258), an early Russian type. Maces were commonly used weapons, mostly made of iron or bronze (Cat. No 248), or of animal horn with iron or lead weights (Cat. No 247).

Bone-carving was considerably developed, particularly in the ornamentation of some tools and implements (Cat. Nos 231, 240, 260, 265).

Another remarkable object is the circular bone plate, per- haps a buckle or seal, decorated with an exquisitely engra- ved personal signet of Prince Svyatoslav (Cat. No 232), and the horn handle with engraved three-letter monogram (Cat. No 280). Also interesting are the incriptions on fragments of pottery, written in Cyrillic characters, yet undecipherable due to fragmentation (Cat. No 290). These inscriptions howe- ver, testify to the literacy of the ancient inhabitants of the fortress.

Glass-making was also developed in Belaya Vezha, as shown by the variety of necklaces and bracelets found in the local cemetery (Cat. Nos 310, 315).

The Old Russian and Romny-Borshevian newcomers quickly mixed with the indigenous population without causing any significant changes in their anthropological characteristics. The brachicranial anthropological type (typical of Proto- Bulgarians) remained predominant, as for the Sarkel popu- lation. The necropolis is near the southwestern fortress wall. The Sarkel-Belaya Vezha fortress stands at a crossroads of caravan routes, leading north to the middle course of the Dnieper, and south to the Crimea, the Trans-Caucasian re- gion and all the way to Byzantium and the Far East. This ex- plains why trade in the new city was booming even while the Khazars were still there. By late 10th — early 11th century, the trade links with the world had become even stronger. Back in Khazar times, merchants brought to the city various bracelets and necklaces, water-holding vessels and other utensils notably a bronze lamp of Middle Eastern origin (Cat. No 283), and the famous chess piece of an elephant North Indian or Iranian origin (Cat. No 291). The latter was found in a Khazar dwelling together with pieces of Salto- vian-Mayaki pottery, which contradicts dating it to old Rus- sian times, as believed previously (cf. Artamonov, 1958, p. 75; Linder, 1964, pp. 48-53).

Kievan workshops had made the crosses and encolpions shown at the exhibition (Cat. No 252), coloured eggs (Cat. No 269), glass beads and bracelets. Other glass objects

are thought to be of Trans-Caucasian, Central Asian or By- zantine origin. Byzantine objects probably came to Belaya Vezha via Tmutarakan, the unique 11th century ivory comb with reliefs being a case in point (Cat. No 239). The Belaya Vezha comb differs from the ones found in Constantinople by its greater simplicity of line, which has promped A. V. Bank to write that it was made in the Empire's esternmost territo- ries (Bank, 1959). Also of Byzantine origin is the 10th century green glazed chalice (Cat No 294).

It is also from Byzantium's remote eastern provinces, appa- rently via Chersonesos, that the rare bronze cross for Russia, the encolpion with an engraved image of the Virgin Oranta, had been brought to Belaya Vezha. It has been classified as belonging to the Syrian-Palestine group of 10th—11th centu- ry monuments, and betrays the hand of a Melkites monastery craftsman (Cat. No 287).

According to Russian sources, the Polovtsians crushed the Uzes and Pechenegs in a battle by the Don in 1116, leaving Belaya Vezha lost in the steppes, far from the Russian bor- der, alone and defenceless. Most probably, the nomadic garrison which by then had protected the city, also perished. In 1117, the Belaya Vezha people had moved to Russia, ac- cording to the chronicles. Yet the city was not entirely deser- ted. A mixed Polovtsian-Belaya Vezha population had mo- ved into the abandoned clay and adobe dwellings in the city for the winter. By the 1120's—1130's the city had finally beco- me extinct.

THE SARKEL-BELAYA VEZHA FORTRESS

In ancient times, the city-fortress of Sarkel-Belaya Vezha stood on the left bank of the river Don. By now, the river has slightly changed its course, leaving the ruins of the fortress by a small lake: the old river bed.

In mid—19th century the fortress, its red brick walls rising partly above the ground, was known as Levoberezhnoye Tsimlyanskoye. As soon as they knew about it, the locals be- gan to use the bricks as ample material for building houses or simply as something to sell in the nearby village of Tsiml- yanskoye. The discovery of Byzantine marble architectural details amidst the ruins suggested to local archaelogists that this might have been the site of the ancient Sarkel fortress of the Khazars, mentioned by Constantine Porphyrogenes. The

news about the find spread quickly in Moscow and St. Pe- tersburg; in 1883-1884, and later in 1887. V. A. Sizov and N. I. Vesselovsky arrived on digging expeditions at the Levo- berezhnoye fortress. However, the poor condition of the ruins and the predominating Russian objects among the finds seemed to disprove that this was actually the mythical Sarkel fortress.

Besides, there were those who held that the actual site of Sarkel should be at the point of closest vicinity between the Don and the Volga, guarding the shortest route between the two rivers, while Levoberezhnoye lay slightly lower off that route. The discussion on the localization of Sarkel continued. The dispute was effectively solved by M. I. Artamonov, who had been exploring the site since 1929. The excavations per- formed in 1934-1936 by an expedition under his supervision (Artamonov, 1935; Artamonov, 1940) showed that the monu- ment comprised two cultural layers: a Khazar layer which explains the brick walls described by Constantine Porphyro- genes; and the Old Russian city of Belaya Vezha, known from the Russian chronicles. In 1949-1951, excavation work was renewed and expanded. In connection with the planned inauguration of the Volga-Don Canal project, another big expedition, again headed by Artamonov, was sent to study the archaeological monuments in the zone of the prospective Tsimlyanskoye water reservoir (Artamonov, 1952; Artamo- nov, 1958, pp. 7-84). The expedition concentrated on the for- tress itself and the nearby necropoli. Total excavation cove- red 10, 496 square metres — more than half the fortress and a great deal of the cemetery near its walls. The two cultural la- yers reflecting stages in the city's life were clearly distinguis- hed: the Khazar one (between the 830's and early 10th centu- ry) and the Old Russian one (from the latter half of the 10th till the early years of the 12th century*. These two layers may be regarded as forming one integral cultural monument, the result of the symbiosis of several coexistent ethnic groups. The excavations of the fortress have yielded vast results: over 1,000 dwellings; about 150,000 fragments of pottery (the 10,000 most valuable of which form the Sarkel-Belaya Vezha collection

of the Hermitage); 400 whole or restored vessels; several hundred non-ferrous metal objects and about 2,000 iron ones; more than 700 bone implements or components;

* The datings of most exhibits on display are determined by their origin from

the respective cultural layer, i.e. from the Khazar one, 9th—10th century, and from the Old Russian one, 10th—11th century.

over 600 fragments of glass bracelets, hundreds of beads, etc. The signs and inscriptions left on the bricks of the fortress wall form by themselves a separate group of monuments (MIA, 75; Publications of the Volga-Don Archaeological Ex- pedition, II. Leningrad, 1959).

The present exhibition includes merely a small part of this invaluable collection.

228. ASTRAGALI (dice, set of 38), 9th-10th CENTURY Bronze, iron. Length 2.5 cm to 4.0 cm. Inv. No 2792/471.

Seven of them with jagged or checkered patterns scratched all over. One, with a tight-fitting iron ring on it, was used as the "driver".

Not published previously.

229. BUCKLE, ROUND-SHAPED WITH ORNAMENT, FIRST HALF OF 10 th CENTURY

Bronze. Diameter 4.5 cm.

Inv. No A 836/6.

Cast, flat/convex; with lotus-like ornament in relief in the middle, surrounded by a rim of uneven cogs and dents; on both sides with two semi-circular slots with protruding lugs for attaching the strap.

Reference: Artamonov, 1958, fig.30, third line from top, left.

230. BUCKLE, OVAL-SHAPED, WITH ORNAMENT, FIRST HALF OF 10th CENTURY

Silver, with traces of gild. Diameter 5.6 cm.

Inv. No A 836/11.

Cast, with bent figural ends, decorated with complex floral patterns in relief consisting of four symmetrical composi- tions. In the centre: a four-petal rosette in relief. Two une- ven slots for the strap at both ends.

231. DISC-SHAPED BUCKLE, 10th—11th CENTURY Horn. Diameter 7.6 cm. Inv. No 2792/163.

With large round hole in the centre and several smaller ones

near the rim. Ornamented with carved checkered patterns and circles;

with notches on the edge. Reference: Artamonov, 1956, fig. 26, 1958, fig. 49, bottom.

232. PRINCE'S SIGNET PLATE, MID-10th CENTURY Horn. Diameter 7.5-7.8 cm. Inv. No 2792/531.

Round-shaped, flat, with Prince Svyatoslav's sign engraved on one side. Surrounded with ornamental rim. The back decorated with geometrical patterns: a 12-petal rosette surrounded by a rim of triangular notches and indents. Reference: Artamonov, 1958, p. 76, fig. 52.

233. SEVEN-PETALLED TEMPORAL RING, 10th-11th CENTURY Bronze. Diameter 4.5 cm. Inv. No A 836/38.

Cast, closed-type, with small round-triangular petals ending in spherical points. The surface decorated with festoons and checkered patterns, the top slightly bent. Belongs to the transitional type between "pointed" and "petalled" Vyatichi rings.

Reference: Artamonov, 1958, fig. 48, centre top.

234. ORNAMENTED POT, 9th-10th CENTURY Clay. Height 7.5 cm. Diameter at bottom 8.5—9 cm. Inv. No A 836/21.

Hand-moulded, squat, with oblique strips of "rope"-like or- namentation at the bulging shoulders and mouth rim, cha- racteristic of Borshevian pottery.

Reference: Pletneva, 1959, p. 226, fig. 13, 10.

235. POT WITH LINEAR AND UNDULATING ORNAMENTAL PATTERNS, 9th-10th CENTURY Clay. Height 11 cm. Diameter at bottom 9.3 cm. Inv. No 248/1210.

Spherical, squat, with gently undulating mouth rim. The rim decorated with triple undulating pattern executed with a sharp stamp; the body with horizontal grooves. With trident stamp on bottom; characteristic of Saltovian-Mayaki kit- chen utensils.

References: Pletneva, 1959, p. 220, fig. 9,3; Artamonov, 1956, fig. 18.

236. CHILD'S POT, 9th-11th CENTURY Clay. Height 17-17.5 cm. Diameter at the mouth 15 cm. Inv. No A 836/41.

Moulded, thick-walled, asymmetrical, with cylindrical body and broad, almost horizontal mouth rim; characteristic of nomadic pottery.

Reference: Pletneva, 1967, p. 235, fig. 25:1.

237. OLD RUSSIAN POT, 11th CENTURY Clay. Height 24 cm, diameter at the mouth 21.6 cm. Inv. No A 836/39.

Rounded, with cone-shaped body, steeply slanting shoulders and smoothly curved rim. The neck decorated with double un- dulating line. With cross-in-circle stamp on bottom.

Not published previously.

238. ORNAMENTED NECK OF WINE-BAG, 9th-10th CENTURY Horn. Height 10.4 cm.Inv. No 2792/257.

Cylindrical, slightly tapered, with two holes on the upper part and six below. The surface covered with engraved orna- mental patterns and figures: deer, bird, stylised cross-shaped tree with rounded crown; plus undecipherable signs and symbols. The lower part is surrounded with triangular fes- toons with small dots. Similar dots decorate all the flat sur- faces of the vessel.

References: Artamonov, 1956, p. 337, fig. 27, 28; 1958, p. 40, fig. 27, Pletneva, 1967, p. 156, fig. 42:12.

239. COMB WITH ORNAMENTS IN RELIEF, 11th CENTURY Ivory. Height 12 cm. Width 8.5 cm. Inv. No 2792/491.

One side engraved with a figurine of a peacock, with stylised flamboyant tail; surrounded with floral patterns; with figu- res of a hare and a chasing dog underneath. On the other side, Samson (or Hercules) tearing the lion's

mouth apart and a warrior with sword and shield. Probably made by a Buzantine craftsman from the eastern provinces.

References: Artamonov, 1958, p. 74, fig. 51:2; Bank, 1959, pp. 333- 339.

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240. DOUBLE-SIDED COMB, 11th - EARLY 12th CENTURY

Bone. Length 6 cm.

Inv. No 2792/648.

Comb from a set with appliques, decorated on both sides with rims of jagged patterns. Not published previously.

241. SINGLE-SIDED COMB, 10th CENTURY Bone. Length 7.7 cm. Inv. No 2792/702.

Comb with appliques on both sides, with longitudinal and transverse grooves and circular patterns; with round hole at the end.

Not published previously.

242. MIRROR, 9th-10th CENTURY Bronze. Diameter 6 cm. Inv. No A 836/2.

Cast, round-shaped, with concentric cylindrical patterns at back and flanged rim; with loop at centre of back. Not published previously.

243. ORNAMENTED NEEDLE-CASE, 9th-10th CENTURY

Horn. Length 8.6 cm.

Inv. No 2792/684.

Square, slightly tapered towards the bottom, with deep, rounded opening. The surface of the borders is covered with circular ornamentation and transverse grooves; with three holes on the wide part of the back for hanging on a wall. Not published previously.

244-246. GOLDSMITH'S MOULDS (five), 9th-10th CEN- TURY

Bronze. Dimensions: a) Width 1.5 cm; b) Diameter 1.8 cm; c) Length 3.7 cm; d) Diameter 2 cm; e) Length 4.5 cm.

Inv. Nos: a—c — A 836/23; d— A 836/30; e— A 836/5.

Cast, used for stamping buckles, belt tips and amulets of dif-

ferent shapes. Reference: Artamonov, 1958, fig. 30; the rest not published previous- ly.

247. MACE WITH SIGNS IN RELIEF, 10th-11th CENTURY

Horn, iron. Diameter 11.7 cm.

Inv. No 2792/449.

Oval, on an iron shaft bent into a hook at one end and ham- mered flat at the other. Five identification signs incised on the surface, of the type characteristic of the property signs of grand dukes.

Reference: Artamonov, 1958, p. 75, fig. 55.

248. MACE, 10th-11th CENTURY Bronze. Height 5.7 cm. Inv. No A 836/24.

Cast, pear-shaped, with polished loop separated from the body by a cylinder. Not published previously.

249, 250. TALISMANS (two), 9th CENTURY Bronze. Length 5.2 cm. Inv. Nos A 836/13, A 836/16.

Moulded, yoke-shaped:

a) with loop in the middle; b) with groove down the middle. The looped ones had been characteristic of the 1st period of the Saltovian-Mayaki culture (end of 8th — early 9th centu- ry); the grooved ones of the 2nd period (latter half of 9th century); cf. Pletneva, 1967, pp. 137-143, fig. 36.

Not published previously.

251. POT WITH LUGS ON THE INSIDE, 9th-10th CENTURY

Clay. Height 17.7 cm. Diameter at neck 18 cm. Inv. No A 836/27.

Hand-moulded, squat, tapered towards the base; with straight mouth rim and two flat lug-shaped handles on the inside, one end slightly below the rim, the other one close to the wall; characteristic of nomadic pottery.

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References: Pletneva, 1959, p. 235, fig. 24:1, Pletneva, 1967, pp. 109, 110, fig. 2:4.

252. ENCOLPION CROSS, 11th—-12th CENTURY Bronze. Height 6.2 cm. Inv. No A 836/3.

Cast, with straight ends shaped like discs; the image of Christ engraved on the front; a plain cross with aura on the back. The ends engraved with some barely recognizable ima- ges, probably of the Sun and Moon (?). All engravings are with silver inlays.

References: Artamonov, 1952, fig. 13, second row; Korzukhina, 1968, p. 133.

253. QUIVER LOOP, 9th-10th CENTURY Bronze. Length 5.2 cm. Inv. No A 836/1.

Cast, ending in a zoomorphic sculptured figurine (a ram's or wolf's head); with a fixed ringlet at the other end which is with an aperture.

Reference: Artamonov, 1941, pp. 187-200, table XXX, second row from bottom.

254. LID WITH MARKS, 9th CENTURY Clay. Height 12 cm. Diameter 15.2 cm. Inv. No A 836/29.

Hand-moulded, cone-shaped, with loop-like handle on top, with anthropomorphic marks scratched roughly all over; a characteristic piece of nomadic pottery.

Reference: Pletneva, 1959, p. 230, fig. 20:1.

255. GLAZED PITCHER WITH ORNAMENT, 9th-10th CENTURY

Clay. Height 23.3 cm.

Inv. No A 836/40.

Rounded, single-handled, with cone-shaped body and broad, flat bottom. The cylindrical neck ends with a tall spout. The long, flat handle is attached with one end to the neck and with the other to the middle of the body.

The entire surface is glazed yellow, decorated with a pattern of triangles and

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circles, previously filled with white paste, traces of which have remained in the grooves. Reference: Artamonov, 1958, fig. 19:3.

256. PITCHER WITH FLAT HANDLE, 11th CENTURY Red clay. Height 58 em. Maximum diameter of body 19.3 cm. Inv. No A 836/10.

Oval-shaped body, with tall funnel-shaped neck and two- row cylindrical mouth rim, with narrow foot and small bot- tom. The flat handle attached to the shoulder and lower part of the neck. The neck is decorated with one circular groove, the shoulders featuring two.

Reference: Artamonov, 1958, p. 72, fig. 50, left.

257. ORNAMENTED PITCHER, 9th-10th CENTURY Clay. Height 23.5 cm. Diameter at mouth 8.3 cm. Inv. No A 836/31.

Moulded, egg-shaped, with tall neck and small spout. The flat handle attached to the upper part of the neck and the shoulder of the body. The body decorated with incised arc- garlands between neck and shoulders, lined inside with cir- cular notches; the neck decorated with linear patterns. A ty- pical nomadic vessel.

References: Artamonov, 1958, p. 33, fig. 21, bottom right; Pletneva, 1959, p. 230, fig. 15:2.

258. MACE HEAD, 10th—11th CENTURY Bronze. Height 13 cm. Inv. No A 836/28.

Cylindrical body, with square protruding portion 1/3 of the way up from base, with four pyramidal spikes. The upper portion of the tube filled with metal and decorated with four groups of hatches in circles.

Reference: Kirpichnikov, 1966, p. 48, table XXVI, 6.

259. ZOOMORPHIC MACE HEAD, 9th-10th CENTURY Horn. Length 5.2 cm. Inv. No 2792/520.

Cylindrical, the tube ends with a sculptured animal head with bulging eyes.

References: Artamonov, 1958, fig. 26, centre first row; Pletneva, 1967, fig. 40:2.

260. ORNAMENTED PSALIUM, 10th-11th CENTURY Horn. Length 15.5 cm. Inv. No 2792/602.

Outward bent with two pairs of holes in the middle. One half with semi-circular section; the other triangular; decorated with semi-circular engraved patterns. The back with roughly finished surface.

Not published previously.

261. BOW APPLIQUE (fragment), 9th-10th CENTURY

Horn. Length 12 cm.

Inv. No 2792/650.

Part of the oblong bow tip is flat, slightly bent, with notch for the string. With ribs on the inside for better adherence to the wood of the complex bow.

Reference: Medvedev, 1966, table 4:11.

262. BOW APPLIQUE, 9th—10th CENTURY Horn. Length 12.2 cm. Inv. No 2792/655.

The middle applique oval-shaped, slightly bent; the outer surface smooth and convex, with rough ends for extra grip of the sinew twisted around it. One end covered with notches outside, with ribs on the inside for better adherence to the wood of the complex bow. Not published previously.

263. BOW APPLIQUE (fragment), 9th-10th CENTURY Horn. Length 8.8 cm. Inv. No 2792/290.

Short curved bow-tip with triangular cross-section, with notch for the string in the wider end. With ribs on the inside for better adherence to the wood of the complex bow. Reference: Medvedev, 1966, p. 12, table 4:1.

264. APPLIQUE WITH WOLFF'S FIGURINE, 9th-10th CENTURY.

Horn. Length 18.2 cm.

Inv. No 2792/99.

Lamella-type, with tapered ends; one end shaped into engra- ved wolf’s muzzle with bare teeth. Reference: Artamonov, 1958, fig. 26, bottom.

265. KNIFE WITH ENGRAVED HANDLE,

10th-11th CENTURY

Iron, bone. Total length 14.1 cm, length of handle 10 cm. Inv. No 2792/83.

Short blade, tapered towards the point; with square handle; with engraved ornament of two strips of parallel solid and broken incised lines on one side of the handle with circular ornamentation between them and the same border on the handle.

References: Artamonov, 1958, fig. 49, centre; Sorokin, 1959, p. 162, fig. 14:2.

266. RING WITH CONVEX SHIELD, 9th-10th CENTURY

Bronze. Diameter 2 cm.

Inv. No A 836/20.

Cast, with flat band, with diamond-shaped, slightly roun- ded, convex shield; imitating gems and with cross-like pro- trusions resembling “paws”.

Not published previously.

267. RING WITH INSET, 9th-10th CENTURY Silver, glass. Diameter 1.6 cm. Inv. No A 836/33.

Cast, with flat inset (blue glass), fixed in place with paw- shaped cross-like protrusions. Not published previously.

268. QUIVER LOOP (fragment), 9th-10th CENTURY Horn. Length 12.5 cm. Inv. No 2792/459.

Flat, with pointed end; with tiny figures carved on one side;

two engraved lines on the outer surface. Three small holes at the bottom of the other side; in the middle portion a large oval hole.

Not published previously.

269. EGG-SHAPED RATTLE, 11th—12th CENTURY Clay, glazed. Height 4.7 cm. Inv. No A 836/19.

Glazed with black enamel, with yellow enamel strips for- ming patterns. Brought from Kievan Russia, where such toys used to be made.

Not published previously. Cf. Shelkovnikov, 1959, p. 303.

270. TOY-AXE AMULET, 10th-11th CENTURY Bronze. Length 3.6 cm. Inv. No A 836/36

Cast, miniature copy of the traditional Old Russian axe: with long neck and a broad downturned blade. With two spikes at back.

Not published previously.

271. BIRD AMULET, 9th CENTURY Bronze. Maximum height 4.2 cm. Inv. No A 836/14.

Cast, flat figure of a bird of prey, with a curved beak, unfol- ded wing and short tail, rendered in incised lines. A charac- teristic type of amulet for the Saltovian-Mayaki culture. References: Artamonov, 1958, fig. 30, top left; Pletneva, 1967, pp. 171-178, fig. 47:6.

272. PIN AMULET, 9th CENTURY Bronze. Length 6 cm. Inv. No A 836/37.

Cast, pin-shaped, with a stylised ram's head with eyes and a small ring at one end. A characteristic type of amulet for the Saltovian-Mayaki culture.

Reference: Pletneva, 1967, p. 174, fig. 47:4.

273. FANG-SHAPED AMULET, 9th CENTURY Bronze. Length 3 cm. Inv. No A 836/26.

Cast, polished in the form of a fang, with a hole for the loop. Characteristic of the Saltovian-Mayaki culture. Reference: Pletneva, 1967, p. 173, fig. 47:11.

274. BELT SET OF 38 PIECES, MID- 10th CENTURY Silver. Length of buckle 4.4 cm; length of tips 3.2 cm each; bracket 2.9 cm; fasteners 2.5 to 1.5 cm.

Inv. No A 836/4.

Cast, engraved, gilded and niello-plated. Part of a treasure comprising two leather belts, one with a set of silver buckles and fasteners; the other with bronze ones. The treasure also includes necklaces of sardonyx beads and dirhams (907-954), and many minted coins with holes. The silver treasure consists of 62 objects in three different style groups (T. I. Makarova, S. A. Pletneva). Only part of the treasure is included in the exhibition. The first group is represented by five trifoil buckles with stylised cat figures and an engraving of the tree of life, plus a belt tip in much the same style. The second group comprises 15 oblong fasteners with dual engra- vings: a human or lion’s mask (A), which, if reversed, resem- bles the tree of life. Here also belong 9 transverse “masks” of the same nature and executed in the same technique, two transverse buckles with holes, distinguished by the predomi- nance of floral ornamentation, one belt tip with a mask and a triangular buckle, hingelinked to a pentagonal mount co- vered with geometric ornamentation.

The third group comprises three buckles with round ope- nings, shaped like animal heads with ears and small pointed beards, surrounded with floral patterns. The group also in- cludes a brace with zonal ornamentation consisting of a bor- der of small beads, “twisted” decoration and S-shaped pat- terns. On the back of each of the of the objects of the first group are three spikes; on those of the second group — five small holes. On the bent edges of the brace there are holes and spikes.

The first group of objects are thought to have belonged to the belt of a young warrior; the second group formed the belt of a higher-ranking soldier. The buckles and fasteners of the third group are supposedly the latest, of markedly geometri-

cal shapes and patterns. The fox or wolf tail hooked to the brace signified the very high rank of the military man wea- ring the belt. The belt set, dated towards the 960's, is a mas- terpiece of Sarkel goldsmithry. References: Artamonov, 1958, p. 54, fig. 34, a, b; Makarova, Pletne- va, 1983, p. 62-77, fig. 3 (restored).

275. OVAL-SHAPED BUCKLE, 9th CENTURY Bronze. Dimensions 4.7 x 3.5 cm. Inv. No A 836/8.

Cast, flat/convex, with large notch for the tongue, hingecoupled. Surface decorated with recurrent stylized fi- gures of birds with long necks and small turned heads. Re- sembles 7th-8th century Crimean monuments and 8th-9th century North Caucasian ones (cf. Aibabin, 1982, p.171, fig. 2:5; Kovalevskaya, 1979, p.36, table VI, 3, VII,1; Pletneva, 1981, fig. 60:82, 61:18). From the Khazar layer of the fortress. Not published previously.

276. UNFINISHED BUCKLE, 9th-10th CENTURY Bronze. Length 3.2 cm. Inv. No A 836/32.

Discarded ingot for an oval buckle with rectangular shield, with metal bars on the surface and partially on the tongue notch. Similar to those of type II, sub-type 3, according to V. V. Kovalevskaya's classification (cf. Kovalevskaya, 1979, p.27, table X, 5,7).

Not published previously.

277, 278. DISTAFF TIPS — BICONICAL AND FLAT (two), 10th-11th CENTURY

1. Dark-pink state. Diameter 3 cm; 2. From red clay frag- ment. Diameter 4.7 cm.

Inv. Nos 1—A 836/34; 2-A 836/18.

Slate biconic tip ornamented with small oval patterns; the other — flat-concave, with traces of linear ornamentation. Not published previously. Cf. Levenok, 1959, pp. 340, 342.

279. PSALIUM WITH DUCK'S HEAD, 9th-10th CENTURY Horn. Length 15.8 cm. Inv. No 2792/649.

Slightly bent, with lateral notch in the middle and two paral-

lel unfinished holes. One half semi-circular in cross-section and covered with geometrical patterns, ends with a sculptured duck's head. The other half ornamented with in- tertwining linear patterns imitating the feathers of a bird's tail. The edges slightly notched. The back with rough sur- face.

Reference: Artamonov, 1958, fig. 25:12.

280. HANDLE WITH MONOGRAM, 10th-11th CENTURY Horn. Length 13.5 cm. Inv. No 2792/268.

Of cylindrical shape, engraved with monogram of two letters "B" and one "O". Reference: Artamonov, 1952, p. 60, fig. 15.

281. BUTT OF BRAIDED WHIP, 9th-10th CENTURY Horn. Height 4 cm. Inv. No 2792/651.

Cylinder-shaped, with conical extension; with a chain of small circles engraved at the ends. Reference: Artamonov, 1958, fig. 26, centre.

282. HANDLE/CASE OF FOLDING SICKLE, 9th—10th CENTURY

Horn. Length 22 cm.

Inv. No 2792/518.

Slightly bow-shaped, with two holes through the broad end. Decorated with four transverse strips of carved ornaments: two with circles and two with crosses.

Not published previously. Cf. Mikheev, 1958, p. 45, 47, fig. 25:17.

283. LAMP Bronze. Length 11.4 cm. Inv. No A 836/25.

Cast, of thick, rounded shape with protruding nozzle and ring-shaped handle; with symmetric protrusions on the shoulders. From the Khazar cultural layer. According to V. N. Zaleskaya, similar lamps had been known throughout the Middle East. Probable dating 8th—9th century.

Not published previously.

284. LAMP ON TALL STEM, 9th —- EARLY 10th CENTURY Clay. Height 23 cm. Diameter of cup 16 cm. Inv. No A 836/35.

Round, like a cup on a tall, hollow stem, without a bottom with four triangular slits in the sides. Classified as belonging to the Saltovian-Mayaki culture, yet in shape and especially with the slits it resembles some Byzantine vases.

Reference: Pletneva, 1959, p. 224, fig. 11:1.

285. PAN, 9th—-1 1th CENTURY Clay. Height 6 cm. Diameter 25 cm. Inv. No A 836/43.

Hand-moulded, with tall rim and two solid semi-circular handles. Reference: Artamonov, 1958, p. 34, fig. 22:5.

286. MINIATURE ORNAMENTED 9th-10th CENTURY Clay. Height 5.9 cm. Diameter at mouth 3.7 cm.

Inv. No A 836/42.

VESSEL,

Hand-moulded, asymmetrical, of slightly oblong cylindrical shape; with traces of a lost handle; with straight rim; deco- rated with deep notches. The body is covered by ornamental incisions. Perhaps used as a toy. Characteristic of nomadic pottery.

Not published previosly.

287. FRAGMENT OF CROSS-ENCOLPION, 10th—11th CENTURY Bronze. Height 10.5 cm.

Inv. No A 836/12.

Cast, with stylised figure of the Virgin Oranta in a robe with geometrical patterns in the style of line ornamentation typi- cal of the Middle East. With three circular patterns on each of the lateral arms of the cross; an inscription in Greek MP8Y above the figure of the Virgin. Belongs to the Sy- rian-Palestine group of monuments.

References: Artamonov, 1952, fig. 13, first line on the right; Kor- zukhina, 1958; Zaleskaya, 1988.

288. FIGURE WITH MACE, 9th CENTURY Bronze. Iron. Height 8.4 cm. Inv. No A 836/22.

Cast bronze figurine on an iron shaft: a man with rough fea- tures and hair swept back at the temples; with broad belt and mace in the extended right hand. The lower portion is missing, but it can safely be supposed to have been a horse- man sitting upright on the saddle. Perhaps representing Ten- gri Khan, the god of heaven and light, the Khan of all gods in the Khazar Khanate.

Reference: Pletneva, 1967, p. 178, 179, fig. 49:19.

289. SMELTER'S MOULD, 10th-11th CENTURY Dark-pink slate; 8.7 x 6.5—7 cm. Inv. No A 836/7.

Flat, almost rectangular; with circular matrix for moon- shapes and circular patterns on one side and an almost com- pleted one for moulding square buckles on the other. With round holes in one corner and the middle of the long side. Reference: Artamonov, 1952, fig. 10, first line.

290. FRAGMENT OF RED CLAY PITCHER WITH IN- SCRIPTION, 10th-11th CENTURY

Clay. Maximum height 8 cm. Width 10 cm.

Inv. No A 836/15.

Fragment of a spherical pitcher, probably brought from Taman. Inscribed with a six-line verse in Cyrillic characters; the words, though, are not Slavic, e.g. drelava, sanaogdon or khanaogdon. Undeciphered.

References: Artamonov, 1952, p. 60, fig. 14; Artamonov, 1958, fig. 54; Shcherbak, 1959, pp. 366, 367, fig. 3.

291. CHESS-PIECE: ELEPHANT, 9th-10th CENTURY Ivory. Height 4.4 cm. Width 3.6 cm. Inv. No 2792/483.

Carved figurine on a pedestal: elephant with rider; the trunk and tail of the elephant hanging all the way down to the pedestal; the rider's turbaned head and shoulders highly stylised. Of North-Indian or Iranian origin. Found in dwel- ling No 10, part of a group belonging to the Saltovian-

hu

Mayaki culture. References: Artamonov, 1958, p. 55, fig. 51:1; Beletsky, 1959, pp. 54, 128.

292. AWL WITH HANDLE, 9th—-10th CENTURY Iron, horn. Length 9.5 cm. Inv. No 2792/526.

The handle of triangular shape with two holes at both ends; the lower end of the insert with the mounted square shaft of the awl carved with three circular grooves; with unidentifi- able marks scratched lightly on the handle. From the Khazar cultural layer.

Reference: Sorokin, 1959, p. 163, fig. 14:11; 23:2.

293. ORNAMENTED CUP-LADLE, 10th CENTURY Clay. Height 8 cm. Inv. No A 836/17.

Moulded, with bulging body, wide neck and bottom. The solid handle is attached to the rim and to the middle of the body, where it is shaped like a pair of ram's horns. There are two depressions around the mouth rim on both sides of the handle; with a second, ring-shaped handle above the main one. The rim and the end of the handle stamped with jagged ornamental patterns; two lines of similar patterns stamped on the body. A very rare piece of nomadic pottery. References: Pletneva, 1959, p. 231, fig. 21, a, b; Pletneva, 1981, col- our supplement, p. 49.

294. CHALICE, MIDDLE/LATE 10th CENTURY Clay, glazed. Height 8.5 cm. Diameter 19 cm. Inv. No A 836/9.

Round, with spotted green glazing, flat, slightly concave, on a tall, hollow, conical stem with a cylindrical protrusion half way up, with four triangular holes cut above it. The inner and outer edges of the rim ornamented with small depres- sions, with a circular groove underneath. Of Byzantine ori- gin.

Reference: Shelkovnikov, 1959, pp. 288, 291, fig. 8.

SMALL NOMADIC MOUNDS NEAR SARKEL-BELAYA VEZHA

Found southeast of the fortress, these mounds are between 0.5 and 1 m tall, each usually containing one, rarely two burials — the principal and an additional one. A total of 44 burials have been discovered in the 41 mounds unearthed so far. The exca- vation works took place in stages: in 1934, 1935 (A. P. Krug- lov); 1949 (O. A. Artamonova); 1950, 1951 (S. A. Plet- neva).

Separate nomadic burials have also been found in the Belaya Vezha necropolis on the first terrace, in mounds Nos 15, 25/1, 19/1 and 60. Four of these (mound 19/1, burials 15, 22, 26, 29) have been published by O. A. Artamonova (Artamonova, 1963, pp. 164-168); the remaining nomadic burials were explored by S. A. Pletneva (Pletneva, 1963, pp. 216-259). The burials containing sufficient evidence of the funeral ritual, fall, according to S. A. Pletneva, in three categories: 1) with horse remains (19 in all); 2) without horse remains (21); 3) with horses, but no human remains (3 burials).

The burials in the first category are almost identical. The bodies were found lying on their backs, their heads pointing W-SW. To the left of the body were the articulated remains of the horse. Abundant ethnographic and archaeological data and the traces of horse skins on the floor and on the walls of the grave, the position of various objects found in graves by S. A. Pletneva, make it possible to reconstruct the ritual of the horse burial. Obviously, not just separate bones, but whole horse effigies, complete with the trappings, were laid in graves.

Judging by the set of objects placed together with the nomad in his grave, horses were typically laid in warriors' graves. A selection of such objects, all found in mounds of the first category — 21/3 and 34/2 — are shown at the exhibition: a breast buckle, stirrups, a sword blade, arrowheads and spearheads (Cat. Nos 295-301).

Burials of Nomadic warriors with horses were widespread in the South Russian steppes in the 9th-13th century.

A comparative analysis of the grave goods and rituals in mounds Nos 21 and 34 suggests their Pecheneg origin and makes it possible to date them towards the 9th-10th century (Pletneva, 1958, pp. 156-159, fig. 3, Nos 6, 9).

A rich woman's burial with a horse, found in mound No 87, is also Pecheneg, though slightly later — 10th— 11th century

(Pletneva, 1958, p. 159, fig. 4, 2).

The second category of nomadic burials differ from the first in that there were no horse bones in them, only fragments of horse gear (Cat. No 302). Most burials of this category are male; and not of young men, as in the first category, but of middle-aged or old ones. There are children's burials, too. Horseless burials had been widely practised in the South Russian steppes, alternating with tumular burials with a horse.

The entire nomadic necropolis is dated between the 9th and 11th century. Its vicinity to the fortress and the abundance of nomadic objects found in the latter, mostly in the citadel, show that the nomads had been its vassals, forming in all probability its garrison (Artamonov, 1958, pp. 34-37). Dur- ing the period when Sarkel was held by the Khazars these were, probably, Pechenegs (Pletneva, 1963, pp. 258, 259). After the city was seized by Svyatoslav (i.e. between 965 and 1117), the garrison was replenished with Uzes; the latter, ac- cording to Ibn Mishaveih and Ibn-al-Asir, had raided the Khazars in 965 and, therefore, could have acted as allies to Svyatoslav in the seizing of the then Khazar fortress of Sar- kel (Artamonov, 1958, pp. 77, 78).

295. SPEARHEAD; PECHENEG, 9th-10th CENTURY Iron. Length 21.3 cm. Inv. No 2340/107. Tumulus No 21/3.

Forged, lancet-shaped, with insert. References: Pletneva, 1958, p. 157, fig. 3, 9; Pletneva, 1963, p. 221. fig. 16 No 1.

296. BREAST BUCKLE; PECHENEG, 9th-10th CENTURY Iron, 6.9 x 3.7 cm. Inv. No 2340/132. Tumulus No 34/2.

Forged, oval-shaped, with tongue. Reference: Pletneva, 1958, p. 157, fig. 3 No 6; Pletneva, 1963, p. 222.

297. SWORD BLADE; PECHENEG, 9th-10th CENTURY Iron. Length 89.0 cm. Max. width 3.8 cm. Inv. No 2340/129. Tumulus No 34/2.

Forged, double-edged, slightly bent at the end. References: Pletneva, 1958, p. 157, fig. 3 No 6; PLetneva, 1963, p. 222, fig. 4.

298, 299. ARROWHEADS (two); PECHENEG, 9th-10th CENTURY

Iron. Dimensions: 6.8 x 1.1 cm; 5.6 x 1.2 cm.

Inv. No 2340/133, 134. Tumulus No 34/2.

Forged, lancet-shaped, with quadrangular cross-section, with traces of wood.

References: Pletneva, 1958, p. 157, fig. 3 No 6; Pletneva, 1963, p. 222, fig. 17 Nos 32, 33.

300. STIRRUP, OVAL-SHAPED; PECHENEG, 9th-10th CENTURY

Iron. Height 18.7 cm. Width of step 3.3 cm.

Inv. No 2340/130. Tumulus No 34/2.

The bow of the stirrup has oval cross-section, with an oval- shaped loop for the strap. The step is forged, solid, decorated with a rib on the outside.

References: Pletneva, 1958, p. 157, fig. 3 No 6; Pletneva, 1963, p. 222.

301. STIRRUP, ROUND; PECHENEG, 9th-10th CENTURY Iron. Height 14.9 cm. Width of step 3.0 cm. Inv. No 2340/131. Tumulus No 34/2.

The bow has oval cross-section, with lug for the strap. The step is forged, solid, bent on the outside.

References: Pletneva, 1958, p. 157, fig. 3 No 6; Pletneva, 1963, p. 222, fig. 21 No 1.

302. HORSE CURB-BIT Iron. Length 18.3 cm. Inv. No 2340/3. Tumulus No 1.

Forged, straight, like a solid shaft with loops at both ends. References: Pletneva, 1963, p. 218.

303. LAMELLAR BRACELET, PECHENEG, 10th—-11th CENTURY Silver. Diameter 5.6 cm. Width 2.9 cm.

Inv. No 2340/149. Tumulus 37.

Of two sections, with decorative patterns in relief; niello. References: Pletneva, 1958, p. 158, fig. 4 No 2; Pletneva 1963, p. 224, fig. 26 No 6.

304. RING; PECHENEG, 10th-l1th CENTURY Gold, glass. Diameter 2.2 cm; diameter of shield 1.6 cm. Inv. No 2340/151. Tumulus No 37.

Band with semicircular cross-section. In centre of shield: a round-shaped glass inset surrounded with double rim anda row of beads. Three larger beads on each side.

References: Pletneva, 1958, p. 158, fig. 4 No 2; Pletneva, 1963, p. 224, 225, fig. 26 No 7.

305. PIN: PECHENEG, 10th—-11th CENTURY Bronze. Dimensions: 2.5 x 1.7 cm. Inv. No 2340/138. Tumulus No 37.

Part of a rounded, convex pin, decorated with oval-shaped loops.

References: Pletneva, 1958, p. 158, fig. 4 No 2; Pletneva, 1963,

p. 224, 225, fig. 27 No 4.

BELAYA VEZHA NECROPOLIS AT SARKEL-BELAYA VEZHA

Along with the small nomadic mounds the Belaya Vezha ne- cropolis also comprises: (1) tombs by the western wall of the fortress; (2) a small cemetery next to the River Gate in the northeastern wall; (3) tombs in the courtyard of the fortress and on hill No 32/8; (4) at the rampart, and (5) at the large ramparts by the inner moat. This part of the cemetery is at- tributed to the permanent population of the fortress.

The large ramparts on both sides of the outer moat were em- bankments formed while digging the latter.

About 500 of the abundant burials discovered in the em- bankments were dated towards 10th—11th century, when Sarkel was captured by Svyatoslav. The burials are in rows along the long axis of the embankment. Studies of these tombs in terms of the bodies' anthropological characteristics (Ginzburg, 1963, table 1, p. 275), of the ritual and the objects discovered (Artamonova, 1963, pp. 9-215) show that these necropoli have been used for burying Slav newcomers side by side with the local Bulgars and Alani (embankments 17/10, 19/1, 24/6, 25/1). There are nomadic burials, too (18/1, and 15).

Judging by the objects discovered, the embankment cemet-

ery is similar to the 11th century Old Russian monuments, without the tumular burials of cremation of bodies in 11th century Russia. This is basically a ground cemetery similar to the Zliv or the mediaeval Eastern Crimean nec- ropoli.

Another thing uncharacteristic of ancient Russia byt typical of the Saltovian-Mayaki culture was the practice of burying two bodies in the same grave, even in the same coffin. This was also done by the Saltovian-Mayaki tribes, who would bury several bodies in the same catacomb (Artamonova, 1963, p. 104).

All these data, as well as the clear prevalence of the local an- thropological type (Brachi- or Mesocranial type of Central Asia with Mongolian admixtures) testify that the Slav new- comers mixed with the local population.

Another interesting fact is the presence of burials with nomadic characteristics in embankment 19/1. Perhaps the Sarkel garrison, which was made up of nomads, offered very little resistance to Svyatoslav; moreover, the troops chose to stay in the captured city after it was seized by its new mas- ters (Artamonova, 1963, p. 105).

The necropolis at the embankments consists of several sec- tions. Embankments Nos 17/10 and 24/6 by themselves form a self-contained necropolis. Another one consists of embank- ments 25/1 and 19/1, and still another — of embankment 26/2. The exhibition shows burial No 215 of embankment 17/10 (unearthed in 1936) and tomb No 33 of embankment No 24/6 (1949).

Grave No 33 contains the remains of an adult woman and a young girl, their heads pointing westwards. The older one was found to have possessed the necklace of stone and glass beads and two cylindrical silver ones (Cat. Nos 308, 310), two silver bracelets (Cat. Nos 306, 307), a silver pendant (coin) of the reign of Basil II] (976-1025) or Constantine VIII (1025— 1028) — cf. Cat. No 309. This pendant, like the silver bracelets with lazurite inlays, similar to ones found in 10th—11th cen- tury nomadic burials, make it possible to date the funeral to the first half of the 11th century.

Grave No 215 contained the remains of a 23-—25-year-old woman, with four silver wire temporal rings and a necklace of stone, amber and glass beads (Cat. Nos 311-315). The lapis-lazuli jewels and other objects date the burial to the

early 11th century. References: Artamonov, 1958, pp. 7-84; Artamonov, 1962, pp. 288-324; Artamonova, 1963, pp. 9-215.

306-307. SILVER BRACELETS (two) Silver, lazurite. Diameter 7.0 x 7.1 cm. Inv. No 2341/378, 379.

Made of two segments each, the ends that do not touch are decorated with oval filled mount, framed with jagged strips. On each bracelet there are three beads preserved intact. One of the mounts is missing; below it there are traces of paste- like substance which held it.

Reference: Artamonova, 1963, pp. 77, 149, fig. 59.

308. BEADS (two) Silver. Dimensions: 0.9 x 0.8 cm; 0.8 x 0.7 cm. Inv. No 2341/377(2).

Cylindrical, of three rows of pellets each; each row consist- ing of five or six pellets on the larger and smaller bead res- pectively.

Reference: Artamonova, 1963, pp. 77, 149, fig. 59.

309. PENDANT (coin) WITH LUG Silver. Diameter 2.1 cm. Inv. No 2341/374.

Made from a coin of Basil II and Constantine VIII, with flat loop soldered to the base. Reference: Artamonova, 1963, pp. 77, 149, fig. 59.

310. NECKLACE OF 42 BEADS

Glass, gilded glass, mother-of-pearl, bone, sardonyx. Dimensions: from 0.5 x 0.7 to 1.8 x 0.4 cm.

Inv. No 2341/376/42/.

A flat mother-of-pearl pendant with two lugs. A fishbone pendant with a hole in the middle; 23 sardonyx beads: 16 spherical, 6 bipyramidal, 1 polyhedral; 17 glass beads, five of which oblong and flattened, of green glass. The rest of yellow glass, gilded inside. One large bead of biconical shape, one cylindrical, 10 small biconical and barrel-shaped. Reference: Artamonova, 1963, pp. 77, 149, fig. 59.

311, 312. TEMPORAL RINGS (two) Silver. Diameters 2.9 and 2.5 cm. Inv. Nos 2341/237, 238.

Made of wire. Before the restoration, one was considered to be bronze. Reference: Artamonova, 1963, pp. 94, 139, fig. 170.

313, 314. TEMPORAL RINGS (two) Silver. Diameters 1.8 and 2.7 cm. Inv. Nos 2341/239, 240.

Made of plain wire, with open ends. Reference: Artamonova, 1963, pp. 94, 139, fig. 70.

315. NECKLACE OF 83 BEADS

Lazurite, rock crystal, quartz, sardonyx, amber, glass. Di- mensions from 0.4 x 0.4 to 1.6 x 1.0 cm.

Inv. No 2341/241.

Three solid lazurite pendants: one diamond-shaped, the others rounded in the lower part, with engraved ornamenta- tion.

Four rock crystal beads: one rounded, the others cut, solid. Six ellyptical quartz beads, each with four barely visible lon- gitudinal edges.

Eleven sardonyx beads: six bipyramidal, three spheric, two prismatic with four longitudinal edges with white ornamen- tation.

One cylindrical amber bead.

58 glass beads: lemon-shaped, cylindrical and _ barrel- shaped.

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Leningrad.

BAIA — Brief Announcements of the Institute of Archaeology, Moscow-Leningrad

BAIHMH — Brief Announcements of the Institute of History of Material Culture, Moscow- Leningrad

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MRA Material and Research on Archaeology of the USSR, Moscow.

PAC — Papers of the Archaeological Commission, St. Petersburg.

RAC — Reports of the Archaeological Commission, St. Petersburg.

SA — Soviet Archaeology, Moscow.

SAHMC ~ State Academy for History of Material Cul- ture.

SHP — State Hermitage Paper, Leningrad.

CATALOGUE

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Cauldron. Bronze. Kizil-Adir. Diadem. Gold, bronze, garnets. Verkhne-Yablochniy. Khutor. Pendant. Gold, garnets. Verkhne- Yablochniy Khutor.

Details to a dagger sheath. Gold. Silver, garnets. Borovoe.

Figural buckles. Silver, Sardonyx. Borovoe.

Applique. Bronze. Gilted. Borovoe. Facings. Gold, garnets. Borovoe Buckle. Sardonyx. Borovoe. Pendants, pair. Gold. Morskoy Chulek.

Ring. Gold, garnet. Morskoy Chuiek Pentagonal buckles. Gold, glass. Morskoy Chulek.

Round buckles. Gold, glass. Morskoy Chulek.

Inserts. Gold, glass. Morskoy Chulek.

Ring. Gold, sardonyx, garnet. Morskoy Chulek.

Pendant. Gold, glass. Morskoy Chulek.

A chain with a pendant medallion. Gold, garnet. Morskoy Chulek. Pendant, pair. Gold, silver. Michaelsfeld.

Medallion. Gold, glass. Michaels- feld.

Achain with medallions. Gold, onyx, glass. Michaelsfeld.

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80. 81-83. 84-87.

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89-92.

Buckle-lion. Bronze. Skibintsi.

Bracelet. Bronze. Skibintsi.

Modelled pot. Clay. Semenki.

Temporal ring. Bronze. Semenki.

Fibula. Bronze. Sukhini.

Fibula. Bronze. Martinovka.

Buckle. Silver, copper, glass.

Artek.

Bracelet. Silver, gold. Suuk-Su.

Earrings, pair. Gold, glass.

Suuk-Su.

Fibulae. Bronze. Suuk-Su.

Fibula. Silver, bronre. Suuk-Su.

End of a belt. Bronze. Kudirge.

Mirror. White metal. Mongun-Tai- a.

oben Birch bark. Mongun-Taiga.

Arrowheads. Iron, bone. Mongun-

Taiga.

Crozier's point. Bone. Mongun-Tai-

ga.

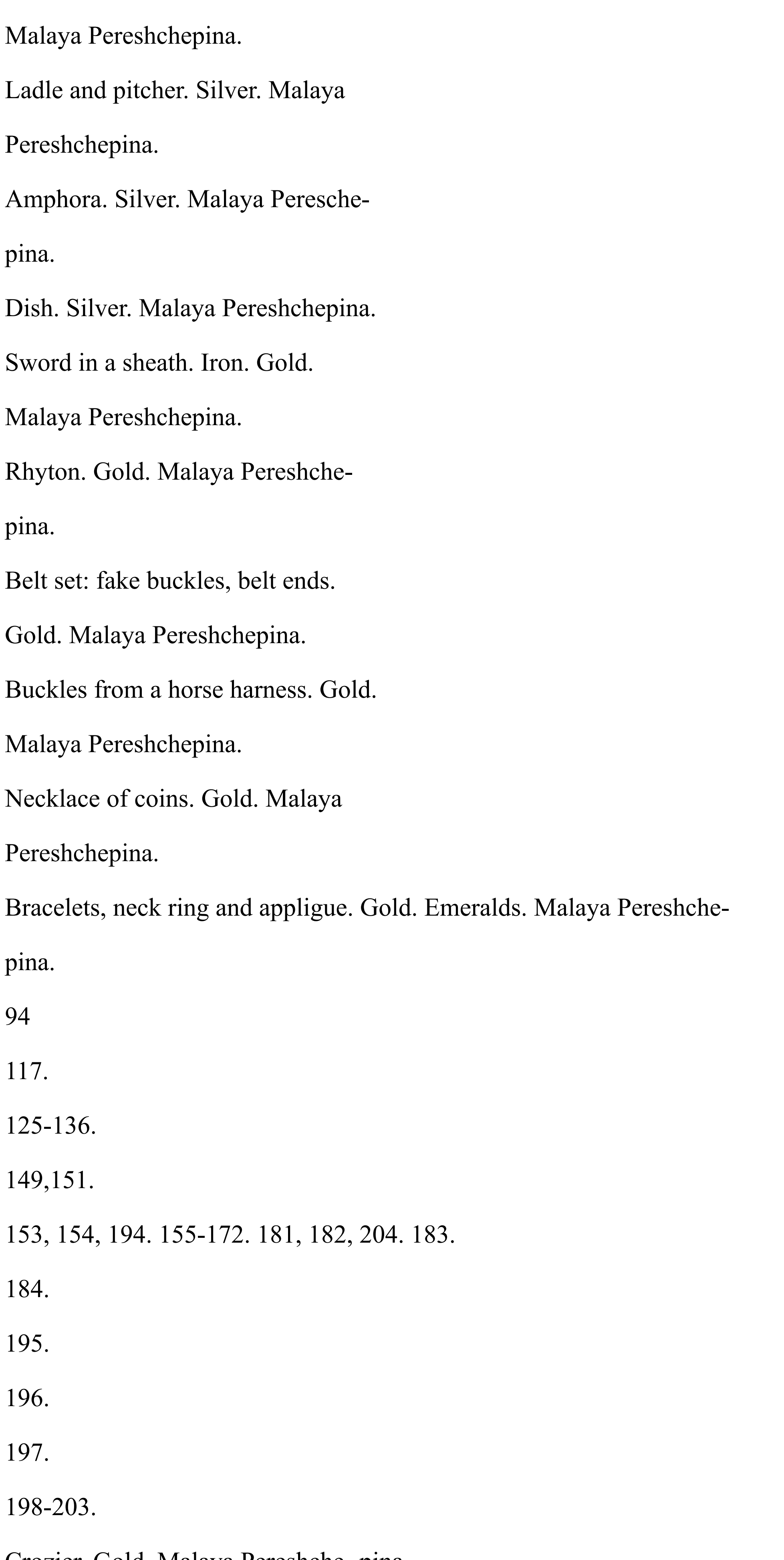
Vessel. White metal. Mongun-Tai-

ga.

Statue of a warrior. Stone. Mongun-

Taiga.

Rings with monograms. Gold.



Malaya Pereshchepina.

Ladle and pitcher. Silver. Malaya

Pereshchepina.

Amphora. Silver. Malaya Peresche-

pina.

Dish. Silver. Malaya Pereshchepina.

Sword in a sheath. Iron. Gold.

Malaya Pereshchepina.

Rhyton. Gold. Malaya Pereshche-

pina.

Belt set: fake buckles, belt ends.

Gold. Malaya Pereshchepina.

Buckles from a horse harness. Gold.

Malaya Pereshchepina.

Necklace of coins. Gold. Malaya

Pereshchepina.

Bracelets, neck ring and appligue. Gold. Emeralds. Malaya Pereshche-

pina.

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Crozier. Gold. Malaya Pereshche- pina.

Pitcher. Gold. Malaya Pereshche- pina.

Cup-pitcher. Gold. Malaya Pe- reshchepina.

Bowls. Gold. Malaya Pereshchepi- na.

Cup. Gold. Malaya Pereshchepina. Buckle. Gold. Malaya Pereshchepi- na.

Plating of a quiver. Gold. Malaya Pereshchepina.

Fragments of a plating of burial device. Gold. Malaya Pereshche- pina.

Agraffe. Gold. Sapphires. Roma- novskaya.

Pot. Clay. Novotroitskoye fortress. Pot. Clay. Novotroitskye fortress. Bracelet. Silver. Novotroitskoye fortress.

Temporal ring. Silver. Novotroi- tskoye fortress.

Treasure of silver objects and dirhams found in a pot in the Novo- troitskoye fortress. Silver. Clay. Sickle and ploughshare. Iron. Novotroitskoye fortress.

Amulets — “little samovars”. Bronze. Verkhnee Saltovo.

Buckles from horse’s trappings. Bronze. Verkhnee Saltovo.

Mirrors. Bronze. Verkhnee Saltovo, Dmitrievskotye.

Little cup. Clay. Verkhnee Saltovo. Pitcher. Clay. Verkhnee Saltovo. Amulet. Bronze. Dmitrievskiy necropolis.

Amulet. Bronze. Dmitrievskiy necropolis.

Amulet. Bronze. Dmitrievskiy necropolis.

Beads. Glass. Dmitrievskiy necropo- lis.

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VAC Ve

Figures of the warriors on the

boulder. Limestone. Mayatskoye fortress.

Pottery. Clay. Volokonovski necropolis.

Mirror. Bronze. Volokonovski necropolis.

Fetters. Iron. Left-bank fortress. Tools of a blacksmith. Iron. Left- Bank fortress.

Silver buckle and bone psalium. Sxrkel-Belaya Vezha.

Buckle-seal. Horn. Sarkel — Belaya Vezha.

Pot. Clay. Sarkel — Belaya Vezha. Ornamented neck of wine-bag. Bone. Belaya Vezha.

Comb. Ivory. Sarkel — Belaya Vezha. Needle-case. Horn. Sarkel — Belaya Vezha.

Mace. Horn. Sarkel ~ Belaya Vezha. Pot. Clay. Sarkel - Belaya

Vezha.

Small hook of a quiver. Bronze. Sarkel - Belaya Vezha.

A little lid. Clay. Sarkel - Belaya Vezha.

Pitcher. Clay. Sarkel — Belaya Vezha.

Pitcher. Clay. Sarkel — Belaya Vezha.

Pitcher. Clay. Sarkel — Belaya Vezha.

The upper part of a mace. Bronze. Sarkel - Belaya Vezha. Zoomorphic mace. Horn, Sarkel — Belaya Vezha.

Bow's applications. Horn. Sarkel — Belaya Vezha.

Quiver’s and whip’s applications. Horn. Sarkel — Belaya Vezha. Ring. Silver, glass. Sarkel — Belaya Vezha.

Amulet. Bronze. Sarkel — Belaya Vezha.

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Amulet. Bronze. Sarkel—Belaya Vezha.

Belt set. Silver. Sarkel — Belaya Vezha.

Buckle. Bronze. Sarkel — Belaya Vezha.

Sickle handle. Horn. Sarkel —

Belaya Vezha.

Lamp. Bronze. Sarkel - Belaya Vezha.

Part of a cross-encolpion. Bronze. Sarkel - Belaya Vezha.

Figure with a mace. Bronze. Sar- kel — Belaya Vezha.

Chess-piece. Ivory. Sarkel — Belaya Vezha.

Ladle-cup. Clay. Sarkel — Belaya Vezha.

Chalice. Clay, glazed. Sarkel — Belaya Vezha.

Stirrups. Iron. Sarkel — Belaya Vezha.

Bracelet. Silver. Sarkel —- Belaya Vezha.

Bracelets-pair. Silver. Sarkel — Belaya Vezha.

Necklace (beads). Silver, glass, stone. Sarkel — Belaya Vezha.

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